

£1.5m scheme to back risk-takers

A £1.5 million initiative by the Manpower Services Commission to encourage "enterprising, risk-taking and adventurous" people was announced yesterday (Our Employment Affairs Correspondent writes).

The scheme, to be known as Entrain, will provide enterprise training through a consortium of 10 youth, education, training and enterprise development organisations. It will give enterprise training to young people on YTS schemes.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, launching the scheme in London, said the trend everywhere was in favour of those who were skilled and adaptable with the ability to learn how to learn.

He criticized the contribution that education had made towards such a sense of enterprise.

Entrain will introduce the training programmes in 116 pilot areas early next year.

Marquess Heart aid on charge vanishes

The Marquess of Hertford is to appear in a Crown Court charged with plunging up part of a Roman town buried on his land.

Magistrates of Alcester, Warwickshire, yesterday refused to hear the case against the Marquess, aged 58, of Bagley Hall in the nearby hamlet of Arden, and he now faces committal proceedings in January.

The prosecution, under the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeology Act, was brought after a complaint by English Heritage. The Marquess was granted bail.

A £30,000 computer used to monitor heart patients, the only one of its type in Britain, has been stolen 10 days after it was delivered to St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth.

The manufacturers had checked the installation on Friday.

Staff found yesterday morning that the computer had disappeared from the outpatients' department with another worth £3,400 used by doctors to check records.

The hospital was last night seeking a back-up system to replace the machine, which had been used by five patients a day.

Sellafield's £30m bill

The Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant, threatened with closure unless immediate improvements are made, will cost £30 million to put right.

That was disclosed yesterday by British Nuclear Fuels four days after the Health and Safety Executive ordered 29 changes to machinery, safety and management in a damning report on the condition of the ageing plant on the Cumbrian coast.

A series of meetings between BNF and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the safety executive, which spent six months preparing the report, will begin this week to discuss a timetable of improvements. BNF says the work will be completed within 12 months.

Runcie bequest

The Crisis at Christmas charity failed to elicit a gift of old clothes from the Archbishop of Canterbury, who when asked to contribute clothing to the appeal for the homeless, said: "I'm still wearing them."

But yesterday Dr Robert Runcie's wife, Rosalind (right), handed over a parcel of her own clothes along with other donations at Lambeth Palace.

The charity will house thousands of homeless people at a disused factory off the Old Kent Road in south-east London for six days from December 23.

Shipyard jobs saved

An international consortium led by a Texas oil magnate has taken over the Smith's Dock shipyard on Teesside, which is due to be closed by British Shipbuilders in two weeks.

An offer in the region of £3 million has been accepted from the group headed by Mr John Atwood, chairman of Atwood Tankery Drilling Inc, of Houston.

The yard, which launched its last vessel in October, employs 1,400. The new owners will take on 200 workers next month to build offshore supply boats and drilling modules and to carry out oil rig repairs.

Atwood says it hopes eventually to re-employ a large part of the existing labour force.

Liberal plan to close health pay gap

By Nicholas Wood
Political Reporter

Liberals called yesterday for phased "catching up" pay rises for health service staff, in a move that threatens the Alliance's efforts to keep tight control over its spending plans for a future government.

Party leaders met today to complete their joint policy statement, *Partnership for Progress*. There was irritation in SDP circles last night that the Liberals had broken an agreement not to make unilateral commitments.

The new draft, intended to form the basis for the Alliance manifesto, has been toned

down to keep its pledges in line with the coalition's public expenditure plans, thrown into disarray by the Chancellor's autumn statement, which increased spending by £4.5 billion.

It is understood that promises on pensions, equalizing retirement ages for men and women at 60 and tying increases to rises in earnings, have both been watered down.

The joint policy committee is also expected to backtrack on controversial changes covering taxes and benefits, which provoked a storm in the summer when SDP spokesmen said they would affect

people earning more than £10,000 a year. They will be phased in rather than introduced all at once.

The call for catching-up rises for up to one million workers is contained in *Fair Pay for NHS Staff* from the Liberal Party's health panel. Although it says such increases should be spread over several years, with the health service pay bill running at £9 billion, the proposal has enormous implications for public spending.

The discussion paper proposes a public service pay information board to spearhead a massive comparability

exercise and to simplify the pay structure in the NHS.

It says that present injustices cannot be remedied by across-the-board increases and that "pay in the NHS needs to catch up with that in comparable occupations outside, and also keep up with further movements so that the gap does not widen again."

Mr Archie Kirkwood, Liberal health spokesman, accused the Government of making the NHS "the largest employer of low-paid workers in the country."

The paper does not cite any figures but Mr Duncan Brack, Mr Kirkwood's researcher, quoted figures showing that

from 1980-81 to 1985-86 average earnings had increased by 49 per cent, while those of NHS ancillaries had gone up by 31 per cent and nurses and midwives by 39 per cent. Prices had risen by 39 per cent.

The Liberals wanted to close that earnings gap through increases phased over a number of years, he said.

● The rift over defence between the two parties will also be formally sealed when the joint policy committee decides the wording of a new clause endorsing the agreed policy of maintaining and, if necessary, modernizing Polaris until the nuclear deterrent is negotiated away.

Shoot-to-kill investigation 'step nearer completion'

By Richard Ford

The second part of the report into allegations that the Royal Ulster Constabulary operated a shoot-to-kill policy is expected to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland within the next few weeks.

Mr Colin Sampson, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, is putting the finishing touches to his findings after interviewing Sir John Hermon, the RUC Chief Constable, about six controversial killings in 1982.

His latest findings concern the shooting dead of five unarmed alleged terrorists in Armagh and Lurgan by an undercover RUC squad during the autumn of 1982. An earlier report into the killing of a youth, aged 17, at a hay shed near Lurgan has been sent to Sir Barry Shaw, the DPP in the province, since October. The third part of the report, into the management and operation of the RUC is not expected to be completed until next year.

Sir Barry has made no decision on whether criminal proceedings should be brought against RUC officers and is making it clear he will not make a decision until all three sections of the Sampson inquiry are completed.

According to similar reports in the *Irish Times* and *The Guardian* yesterday up to eight members of the RUC are expected to be charged by March with offences likely to include conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. But the Government denied yesterday

that it had given any assurance to the Irish Government that prosecutions would be brought in relation to allegations that the police operated a shoot-to-kill policy.

The Northern Ireland Office said: "The Secretary of State and ministers have no part to play in this decision-making, and therefore cannot give assurances to anyone regarding the outcome of cases referred to the DPP. The DPP has an independent role to play in deciding if any cases referred to him warrant the instigation of criminal proceedings."

However, the investigation, which was initially carried out by Mr John Stalker, the deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, has been raised at the joint Anglo-Irish ministerial conferences as the Irish Government believes a satisfactory conclusion of the affair is essential if nationalists in the North are to have confidence in the administration of justice in Ulster.

The report that assurances have been given during the private ministerial meetings have confirmed the suspicions of Unionists.

Mr Frank Millar, the general secretary of the Official Unionists, called on the Secretary of State to produce the minutes of all relevant discussions on the issue to allay real and justifiable fears.

He said that it was a serious matter as it appeared to question the independent role of the DPP in the judicial system.

Dean calls for levy support

By Michael McCarthy

Voting closes on Thursday for the ballot of Sogat '82 members on a compulsory levy to relieve the drain on the print union's finances caused by the Wapping dispute.

The 206,000 members nationwide are being asked to contribute 58p a week for six months to save the union from what its general secretary, Miss Brenda Dean, has said may be possible bankruptcy.

Under Sogat's rules, the union's national executive could have imposed a levy without consultation, but such a move would have been unpopular with the vast majority of the members unaffected by the dispute with News International, many of whom are continuing to handle *The Times* and the company's other titles, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *The News of the World*.

The dispute began when 5,100 printworkers went on strike and were dismissed before the company transferred production of its newspapers to its new plant at Wapping in east London.

Miss Dean has spelt out Sogat's difficult financial position in a special edition of the union's journal in which she appealed for support for the levy.

She said that Sogat had been "financially crippled" by the heavy legal costs incurred when the union's assets were sequestrated by the High Court early in the dispute, and by the large sums paid out in benefit, which together are thought to total about £2.5 million.

Damages claims made by News International may eventually total a further £2 million or even more.

A "yes" vote in the levy ballot is generally expected.

● Six men were arrested early yesterday when a group of nearly 300 demonstrators attempted to force open the main gate of the Wapping plant shortly after 3 am. The men, variously charged with obstruction and threatening behaviour, were remanded on bail to appear at Thames Magistrates' Court on December 22 and 23.

Prince in appeal to business

By Alan Hamilton

The Prince of Wales last night launched a crusade to persuade British industry and business to dig much deeper into its corporate pocket and increase substantially its donations to charity.

At a reception at 10 Downing Street, hosted by the Prime Minister, the Prince formally initiated the Per Cent Club, which commits its members to donating at least half of 1 per cent of their pre-tax profits to job creation, new businesses, inner city regeneration and other charitable causes.

The Prince has been an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme since Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, brought the idea back from the United States earlier this year.

The Prince hopes that at least some of the money generated will be directed towards his favoured cause, the inner city, although companies will remain free to put their charitable effort in any direction they choose.

The club hopes to recruit the 200 top British companies, but so far only 67 have committed themselves. Last year those 67 gave £18 million to charity; their commitment to the club would increase their annual donation to £50 million.

Following a change in tax laws, companies can now claim tax relief on charity contributions of up to 3 per cent of gross dividend.

Heavyweight men are throwing airline fuel calculations into chaos.

The average male passenger today is at least 10 pounds heavier than 10 years ago, and the weight of the hand luggage he takes on board is rising too.

But pilots calculating the amount of fuel they need to lift the new breed of passengers are still using average weights which are far too low, throwing out their precise calculations



The mail mountain being sorted at Nine Elms office, south London, yesterday (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Gas acceptance letters swell record for mail

By Kenneth Gosling

A record number of cards and parcels being sent by post this Christmas was boosted yesterday by 4.5 million British Gas acceptance letters which pushed up the day's total to 120 million items.

More than 1,300 million Christmas cards have been posted so far, exceeding the expected total of 1,276 million, while 25.6 million calendars have been sent, compared with 19 million in 1982.

A Post Office spokeswoman said that people had been encouraged to post early by the 12p discount stamp, of which 300 million were issued.

While postage costs have come down, the average price of Christmas cards is still only 5p, 143 years after Sir Henry

Coles invented mechanically-printed greeting cards. Sir Henry had 1,000 cards printed. Those surplus to his requirements were sold at a Bond Street, London, shop at a shilling each.

The most expensive Christmas card, made of ivory, was sent by an Indian prince 80 years ago. It cost £500,000 and involved the slaughter of 40 elephants.

The Post Office paid tribute to improved parcel wrapping techniques. "Much better. Far fewer are reaching Heartbreak Corner," the spokeswoman said.

Tomorrow is the last posting day for second class mail in time for Christmas. First class mail closes on Friday.

Head wins court fight over Brent inquiry

By John Clare
Education Correspondent

Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the head teacher at the centre of a dispute over allegations of racism, was yesterday granted an injunction by the High Court preventing Brent council in north-west London from holding a disciplinary inquiry into her case.

She was also given leave to seek a judicial review of the council's decision to go ahead with the inquiry.

Miss McGoldrick was granted injunctions preventing the council from holding the inquiry, which had been planned for tomorrow, or taking any further proceedings against her until her application for judicial review can be heard, probably in the new year.

Mr Justice Webster said he was satisfied that Miss McGoldrick had "serious issues to be tried".

Mr David Turner-Samuels, QC, for Brent, told the judge that although the Court of Appeal had said it would be "unwise" for the council to continue its action, it was not ruled unlawful.

Later, an official of the National Union of Teachers, which has been backing Miss McGoldrick, said the application for a judicial review would be withdrawn if Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, used his powers to intervene under the Education Act 1944.

Mr Baker said he was waiting for Brent's reply to his latest request for information and would be looking at it "very closely" later today. He pointed out that the Act required him to be fully satisfied that the council was acting, or planning to act, unreasonably.

He added: "My first concern remains a just outcome to this affair and a speedy return to normal for the children of Sudbury Infants School".

Brent council accused the NUT of "taking advantage of the legal system to prevent the council from carrying out its legally established rights as an employer".

Defence contracts

Shorts' £225m missile deal

By a Staff Reporter

Northern Ireland's biggest manufacturing employer has won a £225 million contract to supply the armed forces with a new generation of air defence missiles.

Short Brothers, of East Belfast, has been awarded the biggest single order in its history by the Ministry of Defence for the Starstreak system, to enter service in the early 1990s.

The order will secure 1,500 jobs in the company's missile system division and provide work for 3,500-4,000 people employed by sub-contractors in the rest of the United Kingdom.

Sir Philip Foreman, chairman of Shorts, said yesterday that the Starstreak system had also been offered to the United States Army. "The export potential is enormous and could rise to £1 billion, further consolidating the jobs of thousands who are directly and indirectly employed on the project", he said.

More than 100 test firings of Starstreak have been carried out as part of a demonstration programme. The small, close-range guided missile has evolved from the company's shoulder-held Blowpipe and Javelin systems, which have

been supplied to 20 armed forces and 14 countries.

Starstreak is capable of destroying all current and foreseen helicopters and ground-attack fighter aircraft with its missile.

The contract is a big boost for Shorts, which has recently been at the centre of controversy over allegations of sectarian discrimination on the shop floor.

● Alvis, the Coventry military equipment maker, has won a £40 million contract to supply about 130 Stormer armoured personnel carriers to act as mobile launchers for Starstreak.

By Our Air Correspondent

British Aerospace management is privately backing a Boeing proposal to provide the next generation of early-warning aircraft, in the belief that it will benefit from the political spin-off.

BAC is trying to convince the Government to provide up to £750 million in launch aid for the Airbus A340 long-range jet, which it is hoped will challenge the dominance of Boeing.

Management believes its hand will be strengthened if the GEC Nimrod is turned down, because the Government will not want to be seen to be giving a slap in the face to two big aerospace companies. BAC is also bidding to sell a

range of aircraft and missiles to the United States. Management believes its sales argument will be greatly strengthened if Britain spends up to \$900 million on the US early-warning system, Awacs.

Under a tacit agreement, known as the "two-way street", British military hardware will be sold in America to balance any sales of US equipment here.

BAC is confident it will be favourite to win a lucrative contract to fit out the Boeing 747 with the Department of Industry on funds for the European A340 have so far come to nothing, partly because of the continuing Nimrod/Awacs battle.

Rover plan for shops to create 7,000 jobs

By Ronald Faux
Employment Affairs Correspondent

A £100 million shopping and leisure centre on the site of the former Leyland truck plant at Bathgate in Scotland was announced yesterday by the Rover Group.

The project will take three years to complete, if it is approved by West Lothian district council, the planning authority, and would create jobs for 3,000 construction workers and 4,000 staff.

Many former Bathgate workers are still on unemployment benefit, contributing to the area's 30 per cent jobless total. At its height in 1978 Bathgate had a workforce of 5,600.

Rover said yesterday that it had found enough interest from potential developers to transform the site into a thriving commercial centre.

Mr Graham Day, group chairman, said that Rover was not going into the leisure business. The site was costing £100,000 to maintain and that continuing drain had to be halted. The company also had a statutory duty to manage its assets effectively and a moral responsibility to the community.

No realistic proposition for continued manufacturing at the plant had been found and none of the few inquiries there had been offered any hope that employment levels would be recovered.

The architects commissioned by Rover are proposing covered, air-conditioned two-storey shops and a leisure complex a third of a mile long. It will have a central mall, three big department stores, and smaller shops.

There are also plans for a cinema, swimming pool and ice rink, parking space for 8,000 cars and an extension of the Edinburgh to Bathgate railway.

Rover will retain ownership of the development area and will act in effect as landlord.

The workforce at the plant, established 22 years ago, was cut to 1,800 as the world market for vehicles grew more difficult, before Bathgate closed in 1985. The company insisted that closure was essential to reduce operating costs by £10 million.

Bathgate workers with 15 years service received about £7,000 in redundancy payments.

Details and picture, page 21

28-day remands proposed

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is considering increasing from eight to 28 days the maximum period a magistrates' court can remand a defendant in custody at any one time pending summary trial or committal.

If there is a favourable response to proposals yesterday in a consultation document, the change will be added to the Criminal Justice Bill, now before Parliament.

At present, the law says that with certain exceptions a magistrates' court shall not remand a person in custody, pending a further appearance before it, for a period exceeding eight clear days. Magistrates can after eight days renew the remand in custody.

The proposal is that, when remanding a defendant in custody pending summary trial or committal, the court should be required, after hearing representations, to reach a view on the period within which the case may make progress. The court should then remand the case for that period or for a maximum of 28 days.

But the Government also proposes that the defendant should be able to apply to the court during the remand for a hearing to be held before that period expires. The ground would be that new information was available relevant to the progress of the case.

The object of the change is, with safeguards for the defendant, to avoid unnecessary appearances in court. A review by the Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department has estimated that about 68,000 remand appearances a year serve no useful purpose.

ICI fined £2,000

ICI, the chemical consortium, has been fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £200 costs by Winsford magistrates for polluting the River Weaver in Cheshire.

Mr Albert Oldfield, acting for ICI, said the company admitted discharging effluent into the river.

By The Times overseas
Austria Sch 20; Belgium Frs 50; Denmark 70; Germany DM 1,000; France FF 1,000; Greece Dr 1,000; Italy Lit 1,000; Japan Yen 1,000; New Zealand \$ 10; Norway Kr 100; Portugal Esc 100; Spain Ptas 100; Sweden Swk 100; Switzerland S Fr 100; United Kingdom £ 1; USA \$ 1.00; Yugoslavia Din 100.

MI5 has a long history...



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Country disgraced by Armstrong, says Labour MP

Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet, had disgraced his country by lying in the Australian court in the Wright case, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab) said, when he opened a debate on the management and operation of the security services.

He said that Sir Robert had lied for the Crown over the Attorney General's failure to stop publication of a book by Mr Chapman Pincher, over the Wright case. He said that the book had come into government possession, and about the arrangements for clearing a book by Mr Nigel West, whose real name is Mr Rupert Allison, Conservative candidate for Torbay.

Sir Robert's lies, he said, had irreparably damaged the historic relationship between Britain and Australia.

Mr Campbell-Savours moved that the House should call on the Government to set up a judicial inquiry to examine the circumstances surrounding alleged attempts by officers of the security services to subvert the Wilson Government in the 1970s.

It also demanded that the Government should carry out all-party discussions with a view to repealing official secrets legislation and to introducing a new legal framework, giving appropriate and necessary protection to official secrets and, in particular, official secrets in relation to national security. It finally called for consistency in the application of the law.

Opening the debate, Mr Campbell-Savours said that 153 MPs had signed his early-day motion in almost the same terms as the motion for today's debate. He therefore went into the debate with their support and hoped to pick up more in a vote at the end of the debate.

He had been asked by a colleague last week what he was trying to prove.

"I am trying to prove that the law as it stands is not working; that the law is an ass in so far as it is inconsistently applied, and there are those beyond the law as it exists."

Those beyond the law included some officers in the Services and some authors and journalists in the business of buying and selling secrets, most notably Mr Chapman Pincher, who had bought and sold secrets; also Mr Peter Wright, the Conservative candidate otherwise known as Nigel West, who had sold secrets.

"I also include among those beyond the law a number of security officers, including specifically Mr Arthur Martin, who is a former Clerk of this House."

He had been a Clerk of the House from the mid-1970s until about 1981, and had worked for MI5 until 1965 and for MI6 until 1975. He had remained very close to the security services during that period; so close that he was able to brief Mr Rupert Allison in detail for his book *A Matter of Trust*.

"I also include among those beyond the law two Conservative MPs who, in my view, are involved in action against the Crown. Mr Wright names two Conservative MPs in his book and I ask the Government to deny those accusations."

Only one of those MPs was still sitting in the House, Mr Wright said that they had acted as conduits for a smear campaign organized from within MI5 by 30 security officers, some of them very senior.

"They knew that information was coming illegally from within MI5, but did not speak out or report to the Home Secretary, but passed it on to the knowledge that it would destabilize the Wilson Government."

"I do not intend to name those Tory members, but I am approaching one and asking that person to make a personal statement before the book by Mr Wright is published."

"This affair is plagued with inconsistencies, deriving from deficiencies within the law."

"The Government, in a desperate attempt to plug the dike of inconsistency, has had to practice deceit and duplicity."

"That is what Sir Robert Armstrong has been doing in Australia. He has been lying for the Crown."

He led over the failure of the Attorney General to stop the Pincher book and lied over the crucial question of how copies of the synopsis of that book came into the possession of the Government and about the arrangements for clearing Mr Allison's book.

"Better not to answer than to tell a lie."

"He has disgraced his country and earned the justifiable contempt of Australia, and done irreparable damage to the historic relationship between our two peoples."

Only the existence of close family ties at a personal level between those at home and those in the field ensure that that relationship endures.

He was at a loss to understand the lack of public protest at Sir William's indiscretions.

"What has happened to the law? It has been brought up to believe in a myth."

"This is the biggest political scandal of this Government."

It resulted from collusion between the British right and the security services and surpassed the scandal of the 1970s.

What had happened then had happened also in the 1960s and 1970s and would happen again in the future unless they intervened. There had been collusion down the years, but he would concentrate on security services' attempts to interfere with Labour governments.

In 1977, the then Mr Harold Wilson told Mr Barry Penrose and Mr Roger Corder when he summoned them to his house in Lord North Street and set out his allegations against the security services, that for his last eight months as Prime Minister he had known fully what was happening in security.

Those two journalists had made a point of keeping all their material on tape, and it was thus available today.

Mr Chapman Pincher had also had much say on these matters in his book, *Inside Story*. There had also been a number of articles in newspapers at the time of its publication. He had a file of those, and *The Times*, in particular, had

seemed to take the allegations seriously, publishing much material and doing further investigative work.

What had happened in the 1960s had to some extent involved the same security officers as were involved in the 1970s.

The only dissenting view on those matters was that of Mr Joe Haines, a reputable journalist, who was told, with the *Daily Mirror*, Mr Haines was Chief Press Secretary to Mr Harold Wilson, when he was Prime Minister.

"But I am told that he has had his difference with Lord Wilson of Rievaulx and that may account in some part for his views."

Lord Wilson had not been taken seriously at the time because the whole issue had been overshadowed by the Thorpe affair, which had dominated Parliament for months and which had prevented a full debate.

Mr Wright had now surfaced and was directly involved. He was the first to whom he (Mr Campbell-Savours) gave full credence. He had surfaced to say that he was involved and that, to some extent, he had masterminded the operation and arranged it. He referred to burgling and bugging all over London.

"We cannot quote what he said in manuscript, but parts of it have become available by one means or another to the media in Australia and particularly to freelance journalists in New South Wales."

If there was any chance of this happening again, he believed Parliament had a duty to act fast.

The security services could assassinate the character of any politician. They could "assassinate" the present Prime Minister by way of rumour and innuendo.

She was seen in some quarters as a radical and all radical politicians stood threatened by the security services which, in the defence of the interests of the Establishment, might choose to take action to destabilize governments.

They could, if they sought to, destroy her and she must know it.

The inquiry conducted when Mr James Callaghan was Prime Minister was shoddy and drew its information from only a few people. Mr Callaghan had taken soundings from the directors general of MI5 and MI6, the very organizations accused of irresponsible acts.

He did not believe that Mr Callaghan was fully aware at that stage of the implications of Sir Harold Wilson's allegations.

He was sure that Mr Callaghan did his job at that stage within the confines placed upon him because he had responsibility for the security services. But if Mr Callaghan were faced by that decision today he felt sure he would undertake a far more detailed inquiry.

If these allegations had been raised in the USA there would have been congressional committees of inquiry set up. The same had happened with Watergate and was happening again today with the arms to Iran issue. Such an inquiry would reveal the truth of this matter.

Lord Willis, who still writes for television, said that of course the BBC was sometimes biased and made mistakes, but was any organization perfect?

The licence fee was the one heavy stick which politicians could wield against the corporation, and the arguments about the fee were political and often far removed from the facts. Most people believed it was money for nothing.

"Let us dispense once and for all with the notion that the BBC is a hot bed of communist or fascist activists; that its writers and producers are hell-bent on subversion and the destruction of our way of life. Such accusations can only come from unbalanced people."

"By all means let us change and develop but let us hold fast to the clear virtues of our present system."

Mr Kenneth Eastham (Manchester, Blackley, Lab) had asked whether the minister read reports, one of which prophesied a power crisis with the possibility of blackouts.

Mr Eastham said that the Government, and that the Government therefore had no right to expect the Bank to go round breaching that confidence by warning of what was going to happen. In evidence, the Bank has asserted that it was the Government's adviser, not its "agent".

But the Bank is also likely to be criticized because all along it had a separate and long-standing agreement to act as adviser to the London Metal Exchange.

In its second report the committee noted that the Government had failed to tell the committee that in evidence, and continued: "Trying, by these hints issued by the Bank of England, to walk away from the International Tin Council's debts - and then only issuing these hints to a select few - is not a suitable way for government to conduct itself."

In tomorrow's report the committee examines the Government's claim for funds and is understood to conclude that more hints issued via the Bank that the Government would not provide additional finance if the ITC over-spent were totally inadequate.

It will point out that the Bank knew of the impending crisis only through its role as



Mr Stanley Orme: Exodus of men from industry. Mr Peter Walker: Praise for productivity in the pits. Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson: Coal-fired power station concerns.

Attack on BBC's reputation

Who could deny that over the past 10 years the reputation of the BBC had declined, Lord Amman (Ind) asked when he opened a debate in the House of Commons on the future of the corporation.

Lord Amman, who chaired the committee on the future of broadcasting in the 1970s, said that although the corporation was remarkably efficient in, for instance, the use of studios, its managerial strategy was misguided and the director-general seemed to have lost control.

Referring to recent Conservative Party allegations of bias, he said that it was not surprising that after seven years in office the Government should come in for criticism.

"The BBC has no duty to uphold the Government of the day. But it has a duty to uphold the standards of journalism."

The Peacock report was bold. No report had tried to look so far into the future. But he did not agree that in the short term the licence fee should be indexed.

Lord Willis (Lab), the playwright and director of Capital Radio, said it would be naive not to see the inextricable link between the Peacock report call for competition and the "systematic campaign of denigration of the BBC launched and sustained with much vigour, if not venom, by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and his look alike, the chairman of the Conservative Party, and others."

To destroy what had been achieved, the name of progress and change, or greater freedom of choice, would be an act of madness akin to pulling down St Paul's Cathedral because it has one or two structural faults and putting an office block in its place. This is the long-term aim behind Peacock and the campaign to discredit the BBC.

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Walker urges caution in coal marketing

The marketing of coal in this country had to be carefully formalized because one customer took most of it, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said when replying during Commons questions to a suggestion that miners should lease their own pits.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said that one way to secure increasing investment in the pits would be to offer to groups of miners the right to lease their own mines, to hire their own management and raise money on the open market, involving them directly in their own jobs.

Mr Walker said the coal board had given miners a direct interest in their own jobs through incentive schemes.

Earlier, he told Mr Michael Fallon (Dorchester, C) that there were plans for privatization of the coal industry at the present time. Heavy losses were being made. But if there came a time when miners could participate more directly he would be delighted.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said that there had been an exodus of men from the coal industry at the present time. Heavy losses were being made. But if there came a time when miners could participate more directly he would be delighted.

Mr Walker said that by March next year a major rationalization in the industry would have taken place. The week before last there had been two million tonnes of coal produced. That was very similar to the figure produced before the miners' strike, with a third less people employed.

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increase for the miners to reward them for this productivity?

That should not be on bonus schemes but on the average rate of pay, in a similar fashion to what the Government did for top generals and civil servants, so that he will be rewarding them for their extra effort.

Mr Hunt: He should take some time out to reflect on the logic of what he has said. As a result of these magnificent efforts, in the latest survey survey miners have once again been restored to the top of the pay league, and long may that remain the case.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): In congratulating the management and workers in the mining industry for achieving these targets, does he not agree that the best way to add good news to that congratulatory is by ordering further coal-fired power stations? There is no reason why that should not be done in advance of the decision on Sizewell.

Mr Hunt: He has already heard the response to that. It is only by reducing cost and winning markets that the coal industry can build a secure future and protect long-term employment.

Mr Martin Brandon-Brave (Nottingham South, C): The growing confidence to which he referred is undermined by the deplorable conduct of Labour MPs who have set silent and rooted to their seats in committee, showing a deplorable attitude to the miners in this country.

Mr Hunt: I was very sad that the Labour Opposition should have chosen to remain silent on these vital issues for the future of the industry and for fair democracy in the trade union movement.

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Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab): The death of orders over the past 10 years has led to the danger of special teams being broken up and not being available when a decision on Sizewell B is made.

Mr Goodlad: That is why the Government has provided support aid for winning overseas contracts.

He added later that a mix of power sources was very important.

Mr David Hunt, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said that the import of coal by the CEGB was a commercial matter for the board. As part of the agreement announced last June, the CEGB had undertaken to purchase 95 per cent of its annual coalburn from British Coal. In line with that, the CEGB expected to limit the amount of coal it imported.

Mr Alex Eadie, an Opposition spokesman on energy, said that nearly five million tonnes of coking coal had been imported in the first nine months of this year and nearly 10 million tonnes of anthracite. That had an impact on the balance of payments.

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Court costs question is rejected

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Civil Service, declined to give the total cost to the Government to date of the Peter Wright court case in Australia when pressed to do so during Commons questions.

He said that matters of security were matters for the Prime Minister, who had said in a recent answer that, because the court case was not finished, a precise figure could not be given.

He was replying to Mr Tam Dalyell (Glasgow, Lab) who said that the daily cost of the action in New South Wales was £120,000.

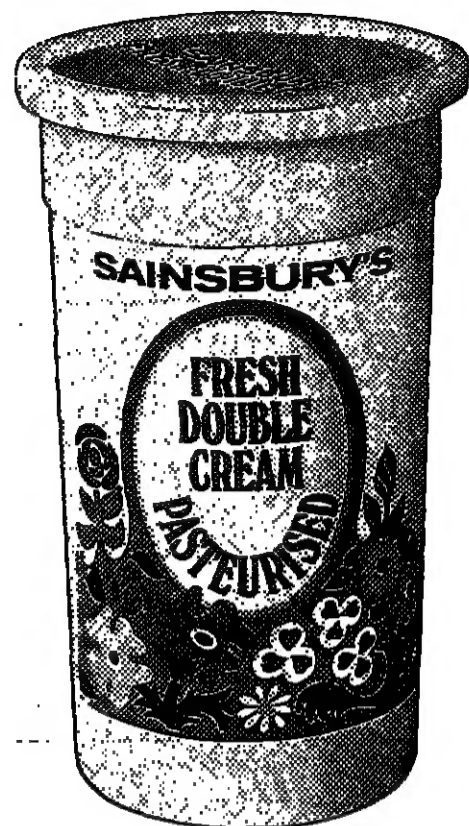
Dr Oonagh McDonald, for the Opposition, said that the Prime Minister should give a formal apology to the Australian court because of the way in which Sir Robert Armstrong, head of the Home Civil Service, had been obliged to mislead the court.

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To the Consumer: Give this coupon to your retailer who will allow 10p off one 500g pack of Alpen with Tropical Fruit. It may not be used towards the purchase of any other product.
Offer ends 31st January 1987.

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Feast your eyes on Sainsbury's Christmas prices.



69p

Sainsbury's Double Cream 10 fl oz



£1.88

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Sainsbury's Fresh Orange Juice 1 ltr	62p
Sainsbury's UHT Real Dairy Cream Aerosol 250g	99p
Lymeswold Cheese 150g	69p
Sainsbury's French Brie per lb	£1.48
Sainsbury's Canadian Cheddar fully matured per lb	£1.68
Sainsbury's 16 Pork & Bacon Party Sausages 8oz	49p
Sainsbury's English Premium Ham 4oz	72p
Sainsbury's Coleslaw 2lb	95p
Sainsbury's Brussels and Ardennes Pâtés 1lb	£1.35
Sainsbury's Scotch Smoked Salmon 14oz presentation box	£9.45



Sainsbury's Premium **45p**
Low Fat Pork Sausage 8oz



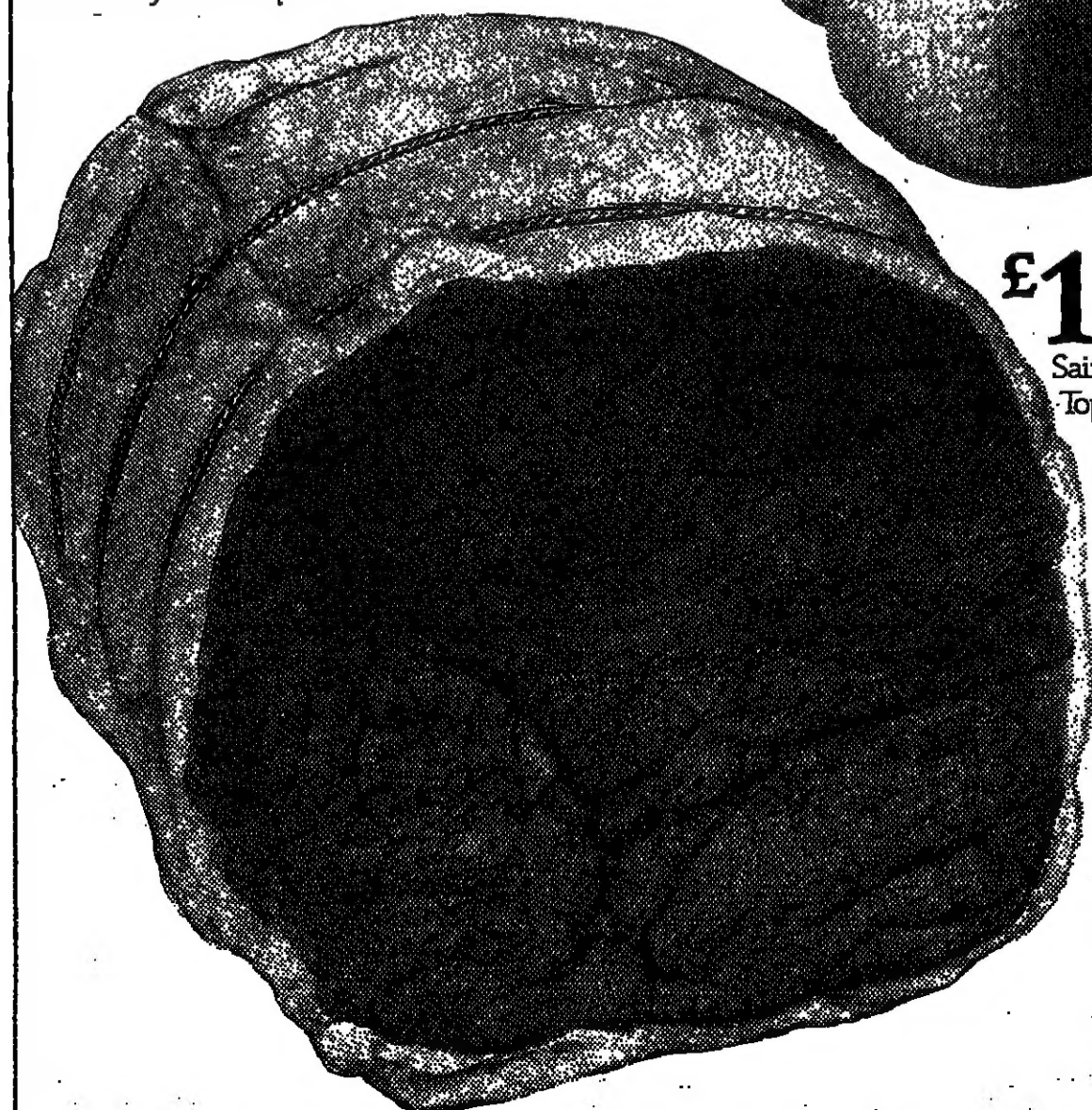
54p*

Sainsbury's Grade A Turkey with giblets - all weights per lb



35p

Spanish Satsumas loose per lb



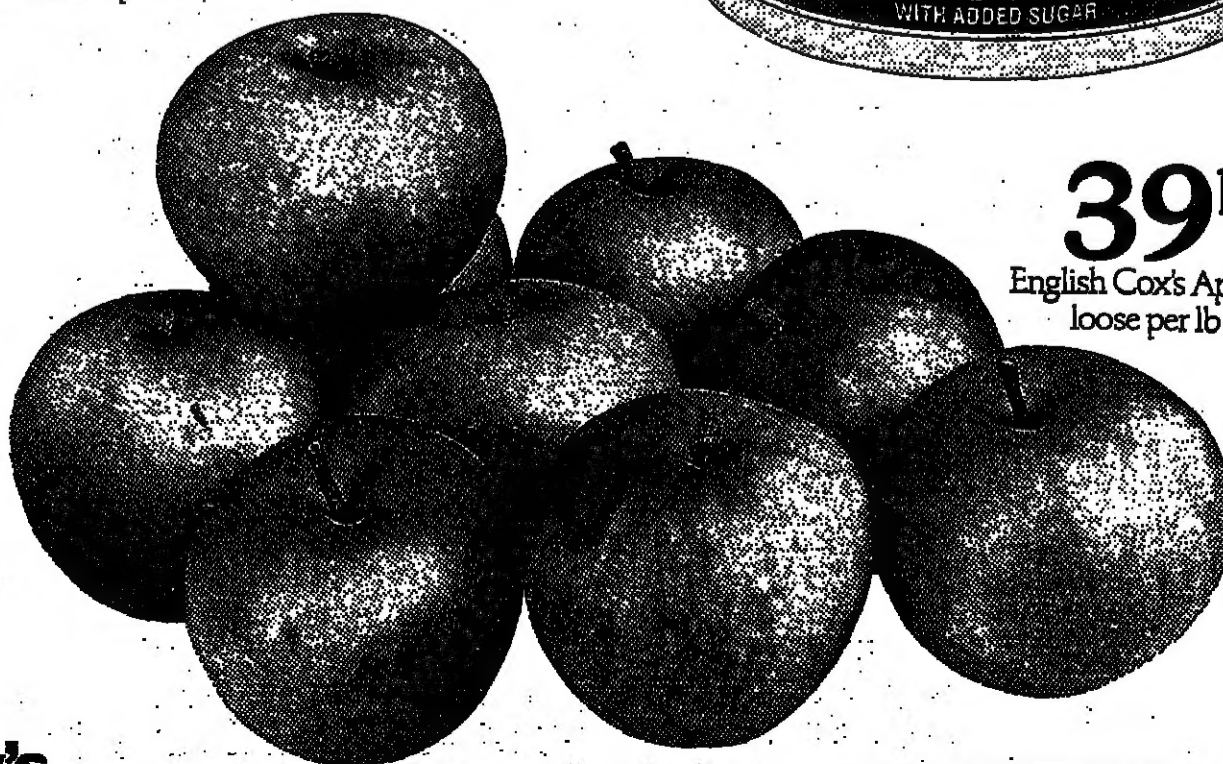
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Sainsbury's Fresh Topside of Beef per lb



95p

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English Cox's Apples loose per lb

Good food costs less at Sainsbury's.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Ethiopian envoy will not go home

Stockholm - Mr Taye Telahun, the Ethiopian Ambassador to the Nordic countries, announced his defection while denouncing his Government's oppressive policies here yesterday (A Correspondent writes).

The 54-year-old envoy said in a statement: "I cannot in good conscience any longer continue to condone and defend the policies of the Government which had sent me here as its envoy."

He said the Addis Ababa regime was more interested in keeping itself in power than working for the well-being of the Ethiopian people.

Mr Telahun ceased to be ambassador on Friday, he said. He has not sought asylum in Sweden and has refused to disclose where he will go.

Mother's suicide bid

Paris (Reuters) - A young French mother, right, accused of drowning her young son two years ago in a mysterious case that gripped French public attention, was taken to hospital yesterday after attempting suicide, her lawyer's office said.

The condition of Christine Villain was serious, following her admission to the Lariboisiere hospital near Nancy after she took an overdose of barbiturates. A spokeswoman for her lawyer said Mme Villain, who has repeatedly said she is innocent, was depressed by a Nancy appeal court decision last week that she be tried by assize court for murdering her son, Gregory, and by press speculation that she would be found guilty.



Valletta charge

Valletta - The leader of Malta's opposition, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, yesterday accused the police of obstructing the magistrate investigating the killing of a Nationalist Party supporter 10 days ago (Anstis Sammut writes). He claimed police had attempted to frame Peter Paul Bonatti, a Nationalist Party activist, who was due to be charged with the killing of Raymond Caruana. He was instead sent to hospital.

Protesters arrested

Stockholm - Police arrested 110 youths after a demonstration and an occupation of an empty building in central Stockholm (A Correspondent writes). Nine of the arrested were charged with violent rioting, an act which carries a sentence of up to 10 years' imprisonment. The rest of the youths were released after a few hours. The demonstration was in protest against the city's housing policy.

Two rivers of big risk

Geneva - The Rhine and the Mississippi are so polluted by chemicals that "it is doubtful whether they can be regarded as suitable sources of drinking water", according to the UN Environment Programme (Alan McGregor writes).

Dr Jan Huisman, who runs its international register of potentially toxic chemicals, said it had become "increasingly difficult for local authorities along the Rhine in West Germany and The Netherlands to see that maximum pollution levels are not too far exceeded".

The same applied to New Orleans and studies have suggested that contamination of the rivers could be linked to the fact that people using water drawn from them suffer slightly higher cancer rates.

Dhaka amnesty

Dhaka - President Ershad of Bangladesh has ordered the release of 203 prisoners charged with anti-government agitation during martial law rule (Ahmed Fazi writes).

Those freed under an amnesty marking today's 15th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence include political, trade union and student activists held in prison without trial under the Special Powers Act.

Trinidad election

Port of Spain - A high turnout was expected yesterday as Trinidad and Tobago voted in a general election (Jeremy Taylor writes).

The People's National Movement, seeking a seventh consecutive five-year term, claimed responsibility for the stability of this oil-exporting state of 1.2 million people, but the National Alliance for Reconstruction had united most of the fragmented opposition forces.

Voyager nears storm

Mojave (Reuters) - Pushed by favourable winds, the experimental Voyager aircraft made steady progress yesterday in its historic attempt to circle the Earth without stopping or refuelling, but a tropical storm lay ahead. "They are less than 24 hours away from a tropical storm which they will avoid, but they are now in clear, smooth air and enjoying the ride," a Voyager spokesman said.

White House crisis:

Berne freezes bank accounts allegedly used in arms deal

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The Swiss Government has imposed a one-month freeze on "at least two" bank accounts alleged by the United States to have been used to siphon Iran arms payments to the Nicaraguan Contras.

This is the first action taken by Berne in the affair and comes after a reply from Washington, received on Saturday, to a December 8 request by the Swiss Justice Ministry for details of alleged criminal offences referred to in a US communication.

The accounts are with Credit Suisse, which has taken full responsibility and frozen one account already. Last week it said, however, that the freeze could not last indefinitely without specific details from Washington.

The name of Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, the dismissed White House aide, is linked with one of the accounts, according to the Justice Ministry. Retired Air Force General Richard Secord and Mr Albert Hakim, an Iranian-born US businessman, are believed also to be connected with the accounts.

The US reply gave enough details of alleged offences, including diversion of funds, to justify the Government move, which in itself is no more than the first step towards giving US investigators access to the accounts.

● "Temporary aberration": The former British Ambassador to Washington yesterday dismissed the crisis at the White House over the Iran arms deal as a "temporary aberration" and he predicted that its implications would not be as serious as those which arose from the Watergate affair (Nicholas Beeson writes).

In his delivery of the 1986 Churchill lecture to the English-Speaking Union in London, Sir Oliver Wright said: "I should have thought that the British interest lies in the matter being dealt with as swiftly as possible, so that the Government of the United States is not hamstrung by uncertainty or diverted from its essential role of leading the Western world."

Sir Oliver, who retired six months ago after four years in Washington, said that at worst President Reagan would be found guilty of a breach of the law caused by a flawed policy.

After meeting President Mubarak for an hour, Senator Kennedy suggested that the only way Washington could reclaim the friendship of moderate Arab states was by "decide, not just words".

The arms sale to Iran had caused tension between the US, Jordan and Egypt, he said. The senator, who becomes chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee next month, met the Egyptian leader at the end of a Middle East tour that had already taken him to Israel and Jordan.

Mr Sam Hall, an American arrested in Nicaragua on alleged spy charges, has for years been part of the Contras' shadowy "private aid" network and has presented himself as a US Government intelligence agent.

Acquaintances say Mr Hall has been involved in several daring plots, including one inside Nicaragua, aimed at making money and at precipitating direct US military involvement against the Sandinistas.

Señor Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, said in Managua that Mr Hall had been detained on Friday near a military airfield with maps and other incriminating papers stuffed in his socks. He said Mr Hall, who is being held incommunicado, said he was working with the "Phoenix Battalion".

Mr Hall's arrest comes two months after the seizure of an American airman, Mr Eugene Hasenfus, whose arms-laden cargo plane came down in southern Nicaragua.

Both men are believed to be part of a large, elusive network which, since the US Congress cut off military aid to the Contras, has continued to keep supplies flowing through, in part, the sale of arms to Iran and the co-operation of high level Government officials.

Press reports from Washington say Mr Hall, aged 49, is a member of the Alabama-based Civilian Material Assistance (CMA), formerly known as Civilian Military Assistance, an allegedly private organization headed by Mr Tom Posey which has sent military trainers and supplies to anti-Sandinista rebels.

Mr Hall is the brother of a US Congressman, Mr Tony Hall, an Ohio Democrat, who has been an opponent of US aid to the Contras and who said that he and his brother have had strong disagreements over the US-backed war against the Sandinistas.

According to three members of the private aid network, Mr Sam Hall has worked with the Contras in Honduras and has been one of the lesser known participants in several bizarre schemes.

Mr Peter Glibbery, a British mercenary who is in jail here for his Contra activities, said that Mr Posey introduced him and another Briton, Mr John Davies, to Mr Hall in

The Swiss connection

Arrested American 'in Contra plots'

From Martha Honey San José

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Mr Sam Hall, the American arrested near an airbase in Nicaragua, who is being held on suspicion of spying.

Decatur, Alabama, in early 1985.

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Mr Hall had also discussed with them a plot to seize inside Nicaragua a Soviet-made helicopter and fly it to a neighbouring country.

He is alleged in an affidavit by a man jailed in Florida to have taken part in discussions of a plan to bomb the US Embassy in San José and kill Mr Lewis Tumb, the Ambassador to Costa Rica, with the aim of blaming the attacks on the Sandinistas.

Jesus Garcia, a Cuban American jailed in Florida on charges of illegal possession of a machine-gun, has said that in January 1985 he and Mr Hall took part in a meeting in Miami where the plan was discussed.

The affidavit, a copy of which The Times has in its possession, summarizes the contents of a lie detector test given to Garcia in which he states: "At this meeting, Mr Hall presented a blueprint of the United States Embassy (in San José) and a schedule of the Ambassador's daily activities. The stated purpose of the conspiracy was to blame this operation on the Sandinistas, thus gaining support for the Freedom Fighters (Contras)."

Mr Garcia's affidavit further says that another aim of the meeting was to collect \$1 million (£700,000) offered by Colombian drug dealers for Mr Tumb's death. Mr Tumb had just been transferred from Colombia to Costa Rica following the announcement that drug dealers had put a bounty on his head because of his efforts to crack down on cocaine trafficking to the US.

Other members of the private aid network and Contras interviewed here and in the US have provided more details of this bizarre plot.

● WASHINGTON: Representative Tony Hall said yesterday that he was concerned about reports that his brother had been arrested in Nicaragua (Molsie Ail writes).

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Americans upset, too

Cairo (AP) - Egyptians offended by US arms sales to Iran should realize that "the American people feel exactly the same way", Senator Edward Kennedy said yesterday.

After meeting President Mubarak for an hour, Senator Kennedy suggested that the only way Washington could reclaim the friendship of moderate Arab states was by "decide, not just words".

The arms sale to Iran had caused tension between the US, Jordan and Egypt, he said. The senator, who becomes chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee next month, met the Egyptian leader at the end of a Middle East tour that had already taken him to Israel and Jordan.

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Church bells to ring in new black campaign

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A 10-day "Christmas against the emergency" campaign - involving a boycott of shops owned by whites, the lighting of candles in house windows and the tolling of church bells - is due to start in South Africa's black townships today in the first important test of Pretoria's new emergency regulations.

It appears that December 16 was chosen for the campaign launch because it is a public holiday celebrated annually by Afrikaner whites in commemoration of their Boer ancestors' victory over the Zulus at the Battle of Blood River in 1838.

It also marks the 25th anniversary of the first sabotage attack by Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the military wing of the African National Congress, which has been banned and driven underground in the past year.

Reporting on the effectiveness of the campaign - called by the United Democratic Front (UDF), a loose alliance of more than 800 anti-apartheid groups - will be difficult as new censorship regulations specifically forbid unauthor-

ized news or comment on the success or otherwise of consumer boycotts.

The UDF made its call for the Christmas campaign before the new regulations came into force.

It is now an offence, liable to a maximum fine of rands 200 (£6,250) or 10 years' jail, to incite or encourage people to take part in consumer boycotts.

It is also an offence to encourage participation in other forms of civil disobedience, including rent and school boycotts, protests, strikes and stay-aways, and soliciting public support for township civic associations, street committees, people's courts and other "alternative structures" - that is, groups which are independent of the Government.

So far the UDF, which claims more than two million members, many of them active in "alternative" bodies, is still operative despite the mass arrests of its grass-roots supporters.

UDF members account for the bulk of the estimated 20,000 people detained during the state of emergency.

Ukraine struggles to cope with Chernobyl radiation risk

From Christopher Walker Zhyvzhehka, Ukraine

Nearly eight months after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster authorities in the Ukraine are still facing huge but little publicized medical, financial and logistical problems coping with the contamination risks which it posed to several million Soviet citizens.

Last week, I was one of the first Western correspondents permitted to tour the region and to inspect the costly efforts being undertaken to minimize the human cost of the April 26 explosion.

At the new village of Zhyvzhehka, 60 kilometres (about 38 miles) from the crippled reactor, hundreds of families are beginning the difficult process of resettling into new brick-built homes (each costing £30,000 to construct).

Mr Anatoly Romanenko, the Ukrainian Health Minister told The Times that the continuing fear of "the invisible enemy, radiation" was one of the main difficulties with which his officials were now faced.

Mr Romanenko said that various techniques including massage and music were being used to calm Chernobyl evacuees with psychological problems.

One evacuee, Ludmilla Sdanovich, aged 33, a shop assistant, said she had a blood sample taken every 10 days to monitor her medical condition.

Like others now living in the soulless but solid-looking new village, she claimed to have suffered no special illness since the disaster.

"I have no fears about



Chernobyl aftermath: Evacuees stroll through a new village, left, while, in the 21-mile zone around the disaster area, right, men still check the fields.

having children when the time comes," she added.

Because of the high levels of radiation suffered by the 135,000 people evacuated from the 18-mile wide "dead zone" around the plant (90,000 of them from the Ukraine) all are being provided with special food supplies brought to them from areas of the country where there is less risk of contamination.

In the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, the third largest city in the Soviet Union with a population of 2.5 million, only sub-zero temperatures are preventing the washing of all streets and buildings three times a day.

The precaution will be resumed once the weather improves.

In the meantime, the streets are being cleaned specially by a fleet of mechanical vacuum cleaners.

Mr Nikolai Lavroukin, the deputy mayor, explained: "We are using several hundred mechanical vacuum cleaners to keep down the possibility of radioactive dust."

"Because our city is built on seven hills, we have had to abandon temporarily the process of washing it with fresh drinking water which would only freeze and cause traffic chaos."

He said that between 50 and 80 vehicles a day were pre-

vented from entering Kiev because they showed too high a reading on the strict Geiger-Müller counter checks being mounted on all eight main routes in and out of the city.

All vehicles found to be over the limit - usually those coming down the special highway from Chernobyl which has been closed to all other traffic - are turned back to be washed at centres manned by officials in protective clothing.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, scores of vehicles were banished for use in the "dead zone" only because no amount of washing would have made them safe.

Although the authorities in Kiev are putting on a brave

face the struggle to return life to normal, they acknowledge that Western tourism has dropped virtually to nil.

Tamara, an intourist guide, said: "I am afraid that the capitalists are afraid to come here anymore, no matter how much we tell them that everything is now all right."

In the view of Western scientific experts, short-term visits to Kiev are considered safe now but none is willing to sanction long-term stays there.

The Times was told by Mr Romanenko that the background radiation, now standing at 0.04 millirentgens, twice the average, should be back to normal by May.

In the 22 Kiev markets and

others in the region, the sale of all privately produced milk and dairy products is still banned for an indefinite period.

The residents refuse to eat fresh mushrooms or berries, and all foodstuffs go through an elaborate three-tier radiation check before being allowed on sale.

Symbolic of the radiation problems faced by Kiev - whose residents are the butt of cruel jokes in other parts of the Soviet Union - was the fate decreed for the dead leaves from the chestnut trees which make the city one of the most attractive in the country.

fashion, they had to be buried as radio-active waste.

In addition to the 31 people who have so far died as a result of the accident, 209 remain in hospitals and sanatoria suffering from various degrees of radiation sickness.

The most seriously affected are all firemen and others who helped fight the early stages of the disaster.

Soviet doctors dealing with them have noted a remarkable similarity between their symptoms and those caused by the disease Aids.

"The treatment is very complicated because, like Aids, radiation directly affects the patients' immune system," the Ukrainian Health Minister said.

Despite the provision of new houses and flats, he said, many of the Chernobyl evacuees - especially the elderly - were demanding constantly to be returned to their deserted homes in the contaminated countryside closer to the nuclear plant, where two reactors have now resumed operation.

Among those we spoke to, the main reason for their demands appeared to be a natural desire to return to the familiarity of home, combined with an inability to grasp the full dangers caused by the fall-out from Chernobyl.

A typical example was Anastasia Panasyova, aged 72, a peasant, who complained that with her new central heating, she missed being able to sleep on her stove - a favoured Ukrainian custom for combating the rigours of winter.

Action Directe blamed as Paris car bomb kills the wrong man

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A quirk of fate saved M. Alain Peyrefitte, editor-in-chief of *Le Figaro* and a former Gaullist minister, from certain death yesterday when the car he normally uses at weekends exploded outside his home in Provins, killing his chauffeur instantly.

No-one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but police believe it could have been the work of the extreme-left French terrorist group, Action Directe, which claimed responsibility for the assassination of M. Georges Besse, managing director of Renault, outside his home in Paris last month.

It was the first time for 20 years that a French political leader has been the subject of a terrorist attack.

The trial on charges of murdering two policemen of three leading members of Action Directe, which has been postponed earlier this month when five of the nine jury members dropped out after being threatened by Régis Schleicher, one of the accused.

Action Directe, which has close links with the German Red Army Faction, has claimed responsibility for more than 50 terrorist attacks in France over the past seven years.

M. Peyrefitte, who is known for his right wing, law and order views and who as Justice Minister in 1979 was the author of the repressive "security and liberty" Bill, has no doubts that he was the prime target of the group's latest attack.

"I have been saved, another has been killed in my place," he told his wife on learning the news.

His Paris secretariat described it as a "miracle" that he had not been killed. Every Friday M. Peyrefitte, who has represented Seine et Marne in Parliament for the past 28 years and who has been Mayor of Provins since 1965, leaves Paris to spend the weekend in his constituency home.

A Citroën BX, belonging to the town, is always delivered to his home for his personal use on the Friday evening before being picked up again.



M. Peyrefitte: "Overwhelmed by unjust death."

on the Monday morning. However, M. Peyrefitte had lost the keys to his official car last weekend and therefore took out his ancient, Renault 504 instead. Again quite exceptionally, he returned to Paris on the Saturday evening.

The Citroën BX, with the bomb presumably already planted in it, therefore remained untouched until M. Peyrefitte's chauffeur came to fetch it shortly after 8 am yesterday.

The car would not start at first, so the chauffeur had to

change the battery. However, it was not until he put it into gear that it exploded with a deafening blast which was heard throughout the town.

M. Peyrefitte said that although he had been the object of several death threats during the years that he was Justice Minister, as well as for a couple of years thereafter, he had received no threats in recent years.

"I was probably chosen as a symbol because I believe there can be no liberty without order in a society," he said.

"I am overwhelmed by this horrible and unjust death."

"There is nothing more revolting than the death of an innocent person."

M. Peyrefitte left Paris soon after the attack to express his sympathies to the family of the dead man, M. Serge Langer, aged 51. M. Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, also visited the family.

M. André Giraud, the Defence Minister, said that "terrorism had struck totally blindly once again". M. Franck Borotra, spokesman for the Gaullist RPR Party, condemned recent criticism of the police, and said that the attack should make the public realize the importance of national unity around the police and the legal system.

However, M. Jean Popere, Deputy Secretary of the Socialist Party, said that the "hateful and bestial" act had demonstrated that the considerable security measures taken by the conservative government since coming to power nine months ago could not prevent such attacks.



Police investigators inspecting the former minister's car which exploded in Paris yesterday, killing the driver.

Israel refuses plea to return French killer

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

French officials have told Mr Avraham Shari, the Israeli Justice Minister, that it would be difficult to guarantee the safety in prison of a convicted murderer France wants sent from Israel.

Mr Shari explained this in the High Court here yesterday in an affidavit he was required to give explaining why he turned down the extradition request for Mr William Nakash, who was convicted by a French court of the 1983 murder of an Arab barman in Besançon.

The French authorities said they would do everything possible to protect Mr Nakash, but they could not guarantee

his safety, given the difficulty of controlling organized gangs in prisons. The Justice Minister said he had tried to overcome the problem by bringing in a law which would allow Israelis convicted abroad to serve their sentences in Israeli prisons, but this had run into domestic political problems.

According to Mr Roland Roth, Mr Nakash's lawyer, there is a "contract" out in the French underworld for his client. Mr Roth claims the murder victim was a member of a powerful criminal clan from North Africa, with 300 of its members serving prison sentences in France.

Tamil guerrilla groups battle for supremacy

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

After bitter fighting which claimed the lives of at least 30 guerrillas over the weekend, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) yesterday gave 24 hours to their rivals, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) to surrender in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

The LTTE, the most powerful of the five Tamil guerrilla groups fighting for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces, announced that it had taken over 28 EPRLF camps during the weekend in the northern part of the country.

Residents in the northern city of Jaffna said that about

300 EPRLF guerrillas were disarmed. The LTTE statement added that as from today, there would be house to house searches for EPRLF guerrillas.

In the island's eastern province, the LTTE certainly seems to have gained the upper hand. It has accused the EPRLF of robbing people, attacking Muslims there.

The Indian authorities have not commented on the fighting, saying that it is an internal Sri Lankan matter. However, two Indian ministers are in Madras to discuss the Sri Lankan Government's proposals to end the conflict with Tamils.

Philippines ceasefire marred by shooting

From Keith Dalton, Manila

About 100 New People's Army guerrillas opened fire on an isolated army camp on Panay Island yesterday in the first armed clash to mar the six-day-old Philippines ceasefire, the state-run Philippines news agency reported.

The agency and local military officials reported no casualties during the attack on the 19-man detachment in Aklan province, 235 miles south-east of Manila.

Brigadier-General Domingo Rio, the military commander, said the attack was "a clear violation of the ceasefire agreement between the Government and the rebels".

The attack preceded a meeting of the five-member National Ceasefire Committee, which is investigating the killing last week of two civilian militiamen and a peace demonstrator as well as the entry of almost 80 armed rebels into Samar, a town 20 miles west of Manila.

Despite these "incidents", the committee on Saturday issued a joint statement saying that no substantial violation had occurred in the first ceasefire in the 17-year insurgency.

● No return: An emergency Cabinet meeting decided yesterday it would be "against the national interests" for the deposed President, Mr Ferdinand Marcos, to return from exile in Hawaii after the death on Sunday of his sister, Mrs Elizabeth Marcos-Keon, and his public announcement that he hopes to return home before the end of the year.

Mr Marcos fled to Hawaii and his passport was cancelled after a civilian-backed military revolt in February installed President Aquino.

Final EEC talks

Agreement hopes dying with candle

From Richard Owen, Brussels

EEC foreign, agriculture and transport ministers met yesterday for the last time under Britain's chairmanship in a final bid to make progress before the end of 1986.

But there was an air of bleak mid-winter about their prospects, with little or no hope of agreement on the outstanding issues of farm surpluses, the trade war with Washington and cheaper air fares.

Mrs Rita Holberg, the Danish Farm Minister, lent a seasonal touch to the proceedings by lighting a Christmas candle on the conference table.

"I hope our discussions splutter out before this candle does," she told a bemused Mr Michael Jopling, Britain's Agriculture Minister, who has been chairing the marathon talks.

They did not, and Mrs Holberg expressed her enmity by ostentatiously knitting a pullover (no doubt a Christmas gift) as she and her colleagues again failed to agree on cuts in milk and dairy quotas.

So far she has completed the back and two sleeves, and few officials doubt that she will have knitted the whole garment by the end of the talks.

Mr Jopling presided over three days of talks last week followed by further talks at the weekend, including an all-night session on Sunday.

He had said he was prepared to go on as long as necessary, but the talks must end by tomorrow, when he chairs the final Fisheries Council meeting for the year.

Some progress has been made: faced with a growing outcry over the food mountains ministers agreed, for example, the need for dairy quota cuts to reduce the butter and milk powder surpluses. But the Commission wants a 6 per cent cut as a first stage.

France wants less and West Germany and Ireland want token cuts only and were prepared to veto anything approaching 6 per cent, even though Mr Jopling proposed substantial compensation for farmers. Similar differences remain over cuts in beef output.

To complicate matters the southern EEC states insist that the northern states - which produce the surpluses - should bear most of the sacrifice involved in cutting back. A Commission proposal for a one-off sale of the 1.5 million tonnes butter mountain found little favour.

Mr Michael Spicer, the Aviation Minister, conceded yesterday that there was still no agreement on liberalizing air transport and the latest - and last - British bid failed. But he said there was unanimity on more flexible

man de Croo, the Belgian Transport Minister, would be in a commanding position to convert into the unanimous decision required when he takes over the chair in January.

EEC officials were sceptical, saying Europe was no nearer to cheaper air fares than it was in November, when the previous Transport Council reached deadlock. But Mr Moore insisted that the EEC was on the verge of agreement towards a liberalized air transport market by 1992.

"The message to the travelling public is that Europe is at long last on a one-way ticket to cheaper air fares, free from off-putting petty restrictions," he said.

Mr Spicer said Britain fully supported the Commission's continuing legal action against European airlines that operate cartels and price-fixing.

The rush of activity, coupled with a marked show of determined leadership by British ministers, has led to the charge from some EEC offi-

New figures from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimate that production of world cereal will reach a record 1,858 million tonnes this year (John Young, Our Agriculture Correspondent, writes). Above average output has been realized in all the world's main producing regions, including China, India and Pakistan. Nigeria and Morocco have achieved record harvests; the Sahelian countries of West Africa attained a record output for the second year running; and Zimbabwe and Sudan are thought unlikely to be able to find export markets for their surplus production.

Officials that Britain knows it cannot complete its programme in the week before the Christmas break and is simply "doing a bit of last-minute Christmas window dressing".

The foreign ministers, under the chairmanship of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday sought to head off a looming trade war with Washington after failure to reach a compromise at high level US-EEC talks in Brussels at the weekend.

The trade dispute over farm exports is directly linked to the imbalances caused by the farm subsidies of the common agricultural policy.

The Americans have said that on that date they will retaliate against a range of EEC food exports unless the Community compensates America for the loss of grain markets in Europe after EEC enlargement, which resulted in a EEC trade increase.

This could be your last chance to see what is really going on in South Africa.



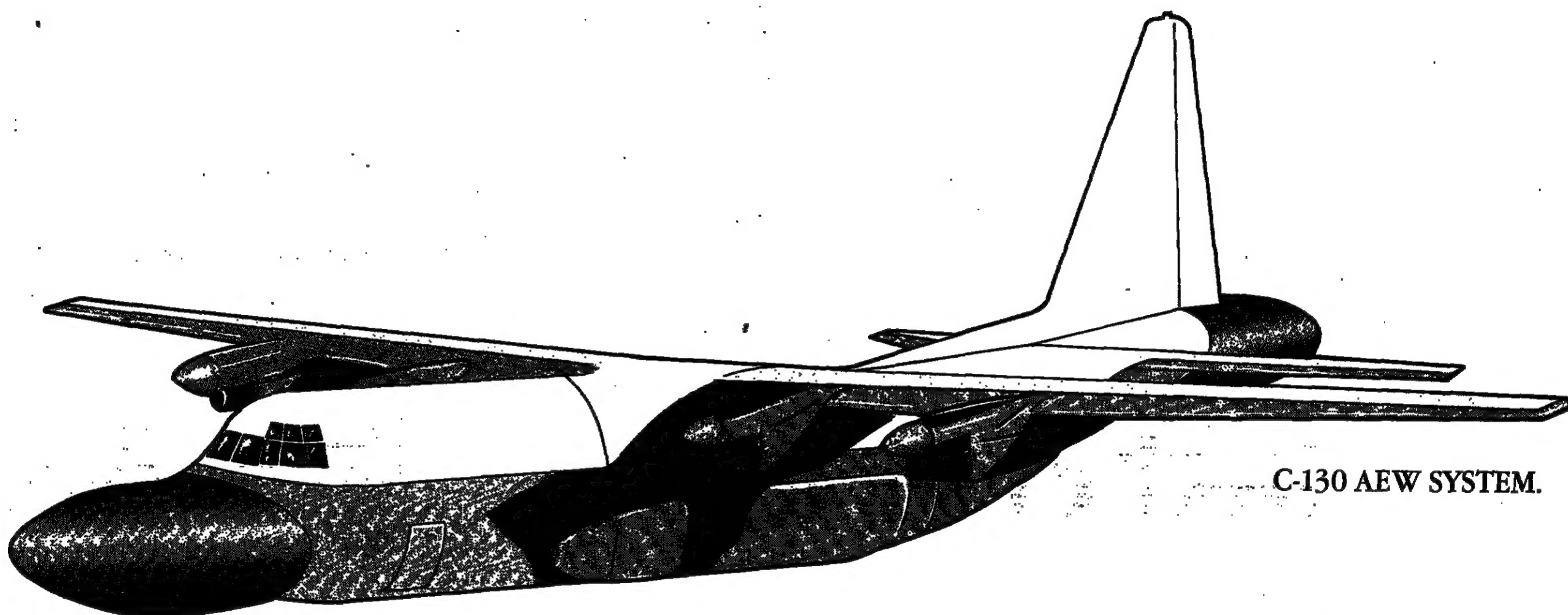
The South African government has just imposed total censorship. Journalists in South Africa can no longer report a strike or a boycott of shops - let alone more extreme forms of dissent - unless their report is vetted by the

So take what may be your last opportunity. Tonight and tomorrow ITV presents the only complete attempt so far to tell the whole story of apartheid.

It may also be the last chance to get any

Philippines
ceasefire
marred by
shooting
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Manila

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Protecting public interest claim is baloney, says judge

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Mr Justice Powell gave British lawyers another hard day at the start of final submissions in the M15 book trial yesterday, suggesting that Whitehall's claim to be protecting the public interest was "baloney".

At the same time, in enjoining at this late stage what he evidently still sees as potential obstacles to the injunction the British Government seeks against Mr Peter Wright's book, the judge also heaped scorn on the evidence of Mr Michael Codd, the Cabinet Secretary in Canberra, whose affidavit in support of Whitehall's case, he said, had no credibility.

The judge outlined a hypothesis which compared Mr Wright, as a voice in the wilderness warning about Soviet penetration, with Churchill on Nazism in the 1930s.

Mr Theo Simos, QC, for the Government, will pick up the threads of his case today to continue arguing that Mr Wright is barred from life from disclosing any details of his service with M15.

Yesterday, Mr Simos cited legal precedents for arguing that although Mr Wright may not have been employed under a written contract binding him to perpetual silence, he was constrained by an effective contract, and/or an equitable obligation of confidence, and/or a fiduciary (trustee) relationship in which the Crown reposed trust, faith and confidence in him. The judge concurred that the contract issue was fundamental to the Government's case.

But when Mr Simos cited the judgment in Britain of Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, who earlier this year upheld an injunction preventing *The Observer* and *The Guardian* from repeating Mr Wright's allegations, the judge demurred.

It was difficult to know what status to accord Sir John's judgment, particularly when Mr Wright had not been represented at that hearing, Mr Justice Powell said.

Later, when Mr Simos returned to the Donaldson judgment, it brought the following remarks from the judge:

"How can one, after what has happened in the last five years, accept that the British Government is genuinely concerned to demonstrate that M15 is leak-proof, when it has - with abundant forewarning and abundant opportunity to do something about it - let the *Princher* book (*The Trade Is Treachery*) go to the printer."

How can one accept that the British Government is concerned?

Let the Nigel West book (*A Matter of Trust*) go to print, let the *Massiter* programme go to air, and, more to the point, let Mr Wright's programme go to air."

The Wright programme, he added, had been repeated on British television only last week.

He added: "When a government, still of the same political persuasion, having done nothing, although having had every opportunity to do something, comes along and says 'this information must be protected in the public interest', it is hard to believe the conclusion that it is baloney."

Mr Simos replied that it should not be said that because of inefficiencies in the past, that in the future members of the security services should be free to make disclosures, whatever the effect on national security.

Again the judge challenged him. On the subject of national security, it was hard to accept, he said, that friendly governments would take exception to the publication of Mr Wright's book when, despite all past leaks, the CIA still saw fit to pass information to M15, and that the British reciprocated even though the CIA had allowed the publication of numerous books by former agents.

In this respect, the judge referred dismissively to the Australian Government's limited support for Whitehall on the damage that might be done to the exchange of intelligence information.

"With great respect to Mr Codd, I didn't think much of his evidence," the judge said. "He espouses views quite without foundation. He has not the slightest idea of what goes on in the CIA. I accept his view that the CIA will think less of Asia (Australian Security Intelligence Organization) if it doesn't do something about Mr Wright."

"As I understand it, Mr Codd said, 'Please shut this dreadful man up, or everyone will think that Australia leaks like a bucket and we will get no information at all'. That is a proposition which is ridiculous."

Mr Simos replied that the judge was entitled to reject Mr Codd's testimony but it had been authorized by the Cabinet and had been based on advice from the security services.

Mr Justice Powell said: "If the truth of the matter is that, whether because of incompetency or falsehood, the Australian people are being kept in the dark - or being led to believe that all is well and it is not - why shouldn't they be told?"

"Let's face it, one of the greatest contributions Winston Churchill made to the British people between the wars was getting up and thumping the tub, 'Look what Adolf's doing - they have got M109s, and we haven't got a Spitfire - get off your butts, otherwise you will go down the plughole.'"

He put forward the outline: "Mr Wright says, in effect, 'I believe this. I believe it so strongly that I wanted the Government to act. I tried to do things through the proper channels. I produced my material and gave it to Sir Anthony Kershaw, who has given it to the Prime Minister, and she has dismissed it as old hat. That is where it is left. We are suffering if she is wrong.'"

There was a possible Australian interest because of the fact that Sir Roger Hollis, the former head of M15 who Mr Wright believes was a double agent, helped set up ASIO. By airing the subject, Australian public opinion could "get busy on Canberra, and Canberra get to work on Downing Street."

Mr Simos: "Canberra has already got to work on it, and formed an opinion."

The judge: "Well, it says it has."

Mr Simos: "But we have an affidavit (by Mr Codd)."

The judge: "It's very difficult to put any real weight to his opinion. He is not only late to the job but his views are without substance and unsupported."

Mr Simos: "We can't accept that."



Star parade: Tong-Tong, a six-month-old giant panda cub, enjoying the protection of an umbrella while getting acquainted with the press at his christening at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo yesterday. His name was chosen from among thousands suggested by the public.

Vietnam leader admits mistakes

From David Watts, Tokyo

The Vietnamese Communist Party leader acknowledged serious mistakes by the Government and party when he opened the sixth party congress in Hanoi yesterday.

Mr Truong Chinh, Secretary-General of the party, said in a speech after the congress opened that the party and Government must be "purified" and there must be "bold renovation" of the country's economy.

The targets set by the last congress in 1982 had not been fulfilled. "Responsibility for these shortcomings and mistakes rests first of all with the party's central committee, the political bureau, the secretariat and with the Council of Ministers," he said. "The party central committee would like seriously to criticize itself for its own shortcomings before the congress."

He urged party members to stay free from corruption and said that after the congress "we must plan to purify the party and the administration and preserve the traditions of unity within party ranks".

Since the last congress four years ago, the party has reportedly been reviewing the cards of all party members with a view to rooting out corrupt elements.

Such public hand-wringing is not unusual in Vietnam but it remains to be seen whether it will be followed by significant reforms and changes of personnel, including the possible removal of Mr Chinh himself as party leader.

Mr Chinh, who replaced the late Le Duan in July, is seen as a hard-line revolutionary who once had good connections with China. He used the congress to make another appeal to the Chinese leadership to improve relations.

"Once again we officially declare that Vietnam is ready to negotiate with China at any time, at any level, and anywhere so as to normalize bilateral relations," he said.

Such appeals, made regularly over the last few years, are unlikely to find a response in Peking until Vietnamese troops are out of Cambodia. Indeed, China recently released photographs from the Vietnam-China border area for the first time since the clashes of 1979 showing rocket-launchers firing salvoes into Vietnamese territory. Vietnam maintains that all its troops will be out of Cambodia in 1990.

Touching further on foreign relations, Mr Chinh singled out India as "a great friend" and said Hanoi was trying to improve relations with Indonesia. India is one of the few countries to station an ambassador in Vietnamese-occupied Phnom Penh and Indonesia is Vietnam's principal conduit for contacts with the countries of South-East Asia.

Chinese Army to modernize

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

The Chinese armed forces are experimenting with a new form of organization.

The concept of the group army - previously unknown in Chinese military strategy - to replace the older, more inflexible, system of field armies, has been tested.

The field army consisted of an army controlling three divisions, each controlling three regiments, and so on. Development of modern weaponry has forced the PLA to change to the group army capable of fighting autonomously with its own artillery, engineer corps, armour and anti-chemical warfare corps.

Chemical attack on Afghans

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The Soviet Union is using chemical weapons, including napalm and phosphorus bombs, in its campaign against Afghan rebels, according to a report in *Newsweek* magazine.

In the magazine, Herr Felix Ermacora, the United Nations special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, claims that hospitals in Pakistan provide proof of the use of these weapons, although such practices have been repeatedly denied by Moscow.

In terms of human rights abuses, there is nothing in the world comparable to the war in Afghanistan. Although it is difficult to prove a deliberate effort to wipe out sections of the Afghan population, the Soviet policy is having "a genocidal effect".

The demographic structure of the country is changing in three ways: five million refugees have left Afghanistan, about one million internal refugees have left the country-side and there is an announced plan to transfer 300,000 people from the north-east to the western provinces.

According to Herr Ermacora, the worst atrocities involve dropping handcrafted and blindfolded prisoners about 30 ft from helicopters 30 ft and then shooting them in front of villagers. People are taken out and their throats slit with bayonets during searches.

In his previous UN reports, he has provided full documentation of Afghan Government torture teams which are said to be accompanied by Soviet advisers.

The release last month of Herr Ermacora's fourth report on Afghanistan stirred considerable controversy after a significant portion of his findings were excised in what UN officials termed an economy measure.

In his interview, Herr Ermacora criticized Sefor Diego Cordovez, the special UN mediator on Afghanistan, for failing to maintain contact with the five million Afghan refugees.

He was fearful that the UN-sponsored negotiations were a camouflage to give Moscow enough time to install a "sovietized" ruling class.

Comparing the situation in South Africa, Herr Ermacora said it was regrettable that hundreds of people were killed during the state of emergency there, "but this number cannot be compared with the thousands of Afghans killed".

Barnala survives in Punjab

Chandigarh (Reuters) - Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, the beleaguered Chief Minister of Punjab, yesterday emerged unscathed from attempts by Sikh and Hindu groups in the State Assembly to oust his 15-month-old Government.

The moderate Sikh leader, whose support in Punjab and the rest of India has eroded with his failure to crush Sikh separatist violence, appeared to survive largely thanks to the opposition's inability to unite.

In a stormy session, punctuated by angry walk-outs, rebel Sikh deputies dropped rebels at the last minute to table a no-confidence motion, and a mainly Hindu party failed to win enough support for a similar vote.

Police at the same time lifted a day-long curfew from much of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar as a protest strike against the murder of a Hindu politician at the weekend went off peacefully.

Mr Barnala completed his assembly victory when the mainly Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party also dropped because of lack of support a no-confidence motion designed to force him to call out the army against the separatists.

Bhutto blames riot on Junejo regime

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

Miss Benazir Bhutto, the leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, yesterday accused the Pakistan Government of staging what she called "the gory drama" in Karachi at the weekend in order to cause a diversion and perpetrate its unconstitutional rule.

Miss Bhutto, who arrived here for a few days' visit from Karachi yesterday, was commenting on the worst ethnic violence in the city's history in which at least 54 people were killed and more than 300 were injured.

The Karachi troubles, she claimed, clearly established that the Government had lost control because it had no roots among the masses.

Meanwhile, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo, Prime Minister of Pakistan, flew to Karachi yesterday to make a personal assessment of the situation.

Mr Aslam Khan Khattak, the Interior Minister and a member of the National Assembly representing North West Frontier Province, told the press here yesterday that the extent of the Karachi riots had caught him completely by surprise.

He described yesterday's attack by Pathans and Afghan refugees on slum dwellers as a reaction to the Government's current operation to clear out traffickers in drugs and gun-runners from the capital of Sind.

While admitting that the Government had failed to size up the problem correctly, Mr Khattak said he was determined to continue with the operation and claimed that Miss Bhutto was not being fair in blaming the Government for yesterday's rioting.

Five of the victims died after an angry mob set fire to 80 shops in Laqat market, near Shah Faisal Colony. There was doubt, however, as to whether they died from burning or other causes.

Police reported hand-to-hand fighting between rival Pathan and Mohajir communities in two districts outside the curfew area.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARBARA MALL 6000 10th St. 8pm. 12.15. 12.30. 12.45. 1.00. 1.15. 1.30. 1.45. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 3.00. 3.15. 3.30. 3.45. 4.00. 4.15. 4.30. 4.45. 5.00. 5.15. 5.30. 5.45. 6.00. 6.15. 6.30. 6.45. 7.00. 7.15. 7.30. 7.45. 8.00. 8.15. 8.30. 8.45. 9.00. 9.15. 9.30. 9.45. 10.00. 10.15. 10.30. 10.45. 11.00. 11.15. 11.30. 11.45. 12.00. 12.15. 12.30. 12.45. 1.00. 1.15. 1.30. 1.45. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 3.00. 3.15. 3.30. 3.45. 4.00. 4.15. 4.30. 4.45. 5.00. 5.15. 5.30. 5.45. 6.00. 6.15. 6.30. 6.45. 7.00. 7.15. 7.30. 7.45. 8.00. 8.15. 8.30. 8.45. 9.00. 9.15. 9.30. 9.45. 10.00. 10.15. 10.30. 10.45. 11.00. 11.15. 11.30. 11.45. 12.00. 12.15. 12.30. 12.45. 1.00. 1.15. 1.30. 1.45. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 3.00. 3.15. 3.30. 3.45. 4.00. 4.15. 4.30. 4.45. 5.00. 5.15. 5.30. 5.45. 6.00. 6.15. 6.30. 6.45. 7.00. 7.15. 7.30. 7.45. 8.00. 8.15. 8.30. 8.45. 9.00. 9.15. 9.30. 9.45. 10.00. 10.15. 10.30. 10.45. 11.00. 11.15. 11.30. 11.45. 12.00. 12.15. 12.30. 12.45. 1.00. 1.15. 1.30. 1.45. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 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Vietnam leader admits mistakes

Southern Lebanon conflict

Threat of new Israeli invasion steels Amal against Arafat

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Rashidiyah, southern Lebanon

"My place is here. This is my land, not the Palestinians," said the young man, his voice as striking as the incongruity of his tidy appearance behind the huge barricades of earth surrounding the Rashidiyah Palestinian refugee camp.

At 21, Mr Nasser Ali Hussein, his spottish beige sweater barely concealing a brand new .45 pistol, is indeed a newcomer to Lebanon's savage war of the camps. Many of his new comrades of the Shia Amal militia — haggard-looking teenagers of the ragtag army besieging the camp — are already veteran warriors who master not only hand weapons but rocket-launchers mounted in trucks.

"I had to come," explained the man, who recently left his job at a big furniture factory in Nigeria to join five of his brothers fighting Mr Yasser Arafat's PLO. Mr Hussein is perfectly aware he may never return to the safety and comfort he found in Lagos when his family fled the civil war and sought fortune in Africa six years ago. But prosperity abroad does not matter any more, he said.

"If I die, if all of my brothers and friends are killed in this war, there will always be Lebanese to defend their land and fight against Arafat," he emphasized with that self-confidence that is giving Lebanon's downtrodden Shia Muslims fresh strength in the battles against a well-armed, better-trained foe.

For Amal leaders and an increasing number of Shia Muslims in southern Lebanon, the war against Palestinian guerrillas is no longer a mere attempt to prevent Mr Arafat from using Lebanese soil as a springboard for attacks on Israel — which all Lebanese know will inevitably provoke Israeli retaliation in the south.

To increase those fears, Amal is now expanding its vision of a Palestinian comeback and is mobilizing the

The rise of terror

Watching last night's *World in Action* programme *The Road to Damascus* (ITV), it became possible to see how crime elevates the ordinary to the extraordinary. Nezar Hindawi, the Jordanian terrorist who earlier in the year placed his pregnant girlfriend on board an El-Al jet in the company of a lethal suitcase of explosives, began his career as a quite unexceptional man. He was, said Brigadier Brian Parfitt, a former member of the Army Intelligence Corps, "a weak man, a romantic". He liked good clothes and foreign travel, and not only enjoyed reading poetry but wrote it.

TELEVISION

The programme plotted the course of Hindawi's metamorphosis into a ruthless top lieutenant of Mohammed Ali Khalil's Syrian-backed terrorist network, from his position of a young journalist whose initial dabblings in that world were a way of supplementing a basic £100 a week salary. Earning his colours with bombings in West Berlin, Hindawi became a VIP when it was learnt that his London-based Irish girlfriend was pregnant. He was rushed off to Syria and given a new passport which would allow him to enter and leave Britain easily with a strong alibi. In the world of terrorism Hindawi had hit the big time.

Considering a huge amount of information in 30 minutes, *The Road to Damascus* aimed at explanation rather than condemnation and was all the more frightening for that. As just another man in the London-based Irish network, Sir David Roberts concluded that nothing is likely to change. Syria used terrorism as their strongest recourse in a "justified" war and they will continue to patronize individuals of promise, such as Hindawi.

Midwives, the last in the BBC2 series *Nurses*, showed that the miracle of birth lies not in the production of a new human being but in surviving that experience. At The London Hospital, Mile End, the jolly, comforting midwives are used to delivering three or four babies a night with calm camaraderie. Accompanied by a terrifying soundtrack of tearing flesh and thumping hearts, the omnipresent camera skillfully captured the fears and joys of this women's world.

Alexandra Shulman

A little talent that went a notorious way

GALLERIES

Alfred Munnings/
Munnings and the
Moderns
Manchester City Art
Gallery

Brockhurst RA
Graves Art Gallery,
Sheffield

Robert Sargent Austin
Robert Douwma

James Fitton
Dulwich Picture Gallery

Rumour has it that the present PRA, offered the opportunity to play host to the touring exhibition of Alfred Munnings now at Manchester City Art Gallery (until January 25), replied sharply that such a show would pass through the sacred portals only over his dead body. Perhaps the rumour is not strictly accurate, but it is comprehensible: even 27 years after his death the very name of the Royal Academy's most vocal and argumentative president this century can bring forth a cool, collected man to blind fury. As he would have wished, he is still controversial.

Only his personality, alas, not his work. There remains — the all-too-rare opportunity of evidence of it — a firmly philistine English audience for Munnings' paintings: mostly, it seems, those who love any painting with horses or dogs in it, irrespective of artistic merit. It would be nice to be able to say that this new retrospective, the first since Munnings' death, is a revelation, restoring him to a place of honour in the pantheon. But such hopes of, at the very least, a good argument are rapidly dashed. If the Academy really wanted to exorcise the old devil for ever, the best thing they could have done would be to offer the show, perhaps in the mouldering Diploma Galleries, as an awful warning on the margins of their forthcoming blockbuster *British Art in the Twentieth Century*.

For all the brave talk about Munnings as a fine example of British

Impressionism, and a wonderful landscape painter even if the equestrian portraits he often put in front of the landscapes looked stuffed, instantly goes by the board as soon as one sees a representative selection all together. Trying to find some fair ground of comparison, we might look to painters such as Lavery or Orpen, but we shall find little joy there, as Munnings is self-evidently not in the same category as either. Despite his reputation, he does not come over as a painterly painter, such as they both were, at all. At his best, as in some of the earlier pictures of gypsies, horse-fairs and such, he seems more like a very fair magazine illustrator.

In the circumstances, it is best to move on quickly from the principal attraction in the Athenaeum to the smaller show, Munnings and the Moderns, in the adjacent main building. Here Munnings' notorious 1956 painting *Does the Subject Matter?* is ensconced in the midst of just the kind of art he was there lampooning. Perhaps not all of it is so wonderful, but to move from Munnings' own work to Victor Pasmore's *Rectangular Motif: Red and Mustard*, of 1950, or Keith Vaughan's 1953 *Assembly of Figures* (you notice I do not even bring Picasso or Moore into play), is to receive an unanswerable lesson in what real painting is all about.

Surprisingly enough, that is also what you get from the Brockhurst RA show at the Graves Gallery, Sheffield, until February 1 (and thence, via Birmingham, to the National Portrait Gallery in April). It is surprising because, after many years of almost total neglect (his death in America in 1979 was scarcely noticed), Gerald Leslie Brockhurst has come back into favour only as an etcher, and as that on the strength mainly of one print, the extraordinary nude in front of a mirror entitled *Adolescence*. In any case, his crisp, clear outlines and meticulous realism, if carried over into his paintings, would scarcely be to the taste of postwar generations. But now? Well, now is another matter entirely. In a decade which has seen a great return to representation, and a profound revaluation of the whole realist and figurative tradition throughout the 20th century, it is more than possible that we shall be ready for Brockhurst again.

And so we should be. It is intriguing to discover that early on he was a fellow of Augustus John and James, in Ireland, painting, around 1916, landscapes in a rather similar style. But, if we may judge from the astonishing *Ranunculus* of 1913, this



An unanswerable lesson in what painting is all about: Gerald Brockhurst's slightly sinister formal perfection in *Dorette* (1933)

was a diversion, as he had already found his true, personal manner, referring more to Botticelli and Fra Angelico than to anything nearer his own time. And when, after a decade occupied mostly with prints, Brockhurst returned to portrait painting, he took up much the same line, only more starkly simplified.

Two particular images haunted him, successively, throughout his life: first his wife Anne, then the teenage model Dorette, who was the occasion of a rather bitter divorce case and eventually became his second wife. Both ladies have a quality which can only be described as slightly sinister: for all the formal perfection, the paintings seem to reach back emotionally to Nineties Decadence and the *femme fatale*. Even Brockhurst's commissioned portraits from this period (such as the famous *Duchess of Windsor*) have the same feeling of unpredictable fire beneath the apparently glacial exterior. In this Brockhurst has a lot in common with some of the German painters of the Neue Sachlichkeit. At the same time it is illuminating to learn that the only two contemporaries he professed any admiration for were Augustus John and Salvador Dalí: undoubtedly there is some kind of Surrealist disruption in his strangely unsettling paintings.

In his quiet way, Brockhurst seems to have been almost as awkward a character as Munnings, and so were the two neglected Academicians on show in London. Robert Sargent

Austin, at Robert Douwma in Henrietta Street until Christmas, was very like Brockhurst in many ways, not least his tendency to look to the past (particularly Dürer in his case) in order to reinterpret the present, but his famous engravings were in fact the main body of his work. He also showed watercolours regularly at the Royal Academy, and did a few oils and tempera, but the tense, impeccable line of his prints is what will ensure his small but distinctive place with posterity. Here also the real becomes surreal and then surreal: the intensity is such that one is not surprised to learn of his apocalyptic nature in private life.

James Fitton, showing at the Dulwich Picture Gallery until January 4, was almost Munnings' successor as PRA, and for long a rooted enemy of all Munnings stood for — a dislike which seems to have been heartily returned. In his case the main point at issue was his readiness to do all sorts of not quite respectable things like drawing political cartoons as well as painting and looking favourably on some at least of the moderns. But there can be no doubt from this show which covers the whole range of his work, that he was a splendid painter in his own fashion, with a strong sense of humour and a quirky eye for character, in places as well as people. Not, perhaps, a really important figure, as Brockhurst arguably is, but an artist too agreeable and accomplished to be quite forgotten.

John Russell Taylor

Father and son die on film set

Johannesburg (AP) — A father and son were burned to death near Benoni on Sunday during filming in a wooden castle on the set of *Gor*, a science-fiction film.

Martin Wenzel, 50, the film company's transport manager, and his 19-year-old son, Conrad, were standing on part of the castle when it was set on fire for a battle scene.

Peace trusts

Wellington (Reuters) — New Zealand has set up two peace trusts, funded by compensation paid by France over the sinking of the Greenpeace protest flagship *Rainbow Warrior*.

Hoskins best

The British actor Bob Hoskins, who has been voted best actor of the year by the Los Angeles Film Critics for his role as the lovelorn gangster in *Mona Lisa*.

The victim was later reported in satisfactory condition in hospital, but another robbery suspect was still in critical condition after being shot in the head by a drug-store owner in the Montreal suburb of Laval.

Mr Don Cassidy, executive director of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, deplored the resort to violence by an increasing number of store owners.

"We are against anyone taking the law into his own hands," he said in Ottawa. He conceded, however, that the trend could be a reflection of public dissatisfaction with weakness in the criminal justice system, which many Canadians consider far too lenient.

Mr Cassidy said the police association is particularly concerned over the rapid proliferation of firearms possessed by individuals.

In the past five years, registration of handguns alone had averaged about 50,000 a year.

The depiction of gun play on US television programmes, which flood into Canada in a daily torrent, may be partly to blame, he suggested.

Shoot-first traders a problem

From John Best
Ottawa

Canadian police are worried by store owners who shoot first and ask questions later when their premises are invaded by would-be robbers.

Four thieves have been shot — two of them fatally — in little more than a month while attempting to carry-out robberies.

One fatal shooting was during a break-in at a drug store in Calgary, Alberta; the other was at a convenience store in Montreal.

The other two incidents also took place in the vicinity of Montreal.

Only in the Calgary episode has a charge — second-degree murder — been laid against the person who allegedly pulled the trigger.

The store owner involved in the other fatal shooting was praised by callers on several Montreal phone-in radio programmes conducted in the wake of the shooting.

The host of one programme said: "This guy is regarded as some kind of hero. Our calls were three to one in his favour."

The latest incident occurred last week when a store owner in Beauharnois, Quebec, 20 miles west of Montreal, shot and wounded an intruder after being roused from his sleep by a burglar alarm next to his home.

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CONCERTS

RPO/Groves

Festival Hall

The Dream of Gerontius is a puzzling piece. Nobody asks about the authorial sincerity of love-songs or string quartets, but with sacred art in recent times the question has been unavoidable. Elgar seems to have acknowledged as much, both in choosing as his subject one of the most shaky areas of faith (Newman would have had reason in proving to himself how far he had travelled from Anglicanism) and in setting so Catholic a text for the largely Protestant public for centuries.

Beneath the visionary incandescence that seems to affirm doctrine, there is an urge of questioning, and it was this that predominated in the measured performance given on Sunday night under Sir Charles Groves.

For one thing, there was no mistaking Elgar's almost Messiaen-foreshadowing use of vulgarized elements in the service of a high spiritual ambition: the school song

Maria João Pires
Elizabeth Hall

Now that the Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires is well and truly back on the concert platform, she is certainly putting herself through her paces. Her temporary exile, due to bad health, was broken comparatively recently: her highly-acclaimed recital debut a year ago in London has now been followed by an exciting programme of Bach, Mozart and Schubert.

With London audiences satiated by pianists, yet too often left hungry for playing of any distinctive character or musical substance, it is easy to see how Pires makes her mark. Dwarfed by the Steinway grand, her playing is charged with highly-strung nervous tension, tenacity of purpose, fierce concentration and a high intelligence shooting quicksilver messages to the fingers. And the fingers themselves are trained to a taut elasticity: she really does play the keys, hammers and strings with the intensity of contact one associates more readily with guitar-playing.

Not surprisingly, this works wonders with Bach. I shall long remember the darling left-hand arpeggios, streaking

("Go, in the name", the drawing-room party piece ("My work is done") and the operatic love-duet ("A prelude fills upon thee"). But possibly this last connection was especially emphasized by the unashamedly full, lyrical singing of Dennis O'Neill, who was most persuasive in those sections where Gerontius sings of the will, and least effective where one might expect religious awe, or dread, or doubt.

Sometimes he was led into eccentricities, such as his sudden pianissimo for the "terrible" thought of judgement; more generally there was a misplaced passionateness of booming attacks and tearing high phrases that was more a fault of vocal nature than of approach. Mr O'Neill was just doing to the best of his ability something he should not have been asked to do. Penelope Walker produced a couple of shining outbursts, but the chief vocal honours went to Benjamin Luxon, whose baritone fire was very welcome in both his solos. The Brighton Festival Chorus fielded a pleasantly soft, fresh group of sopranos.

Paul Griffiths

their way up to steal the right hand's fire, in the Corrente of the B flat Partita. And then the shifting pattern — near-minimalist in fact — of sonorities, accents and ornaments in the two Minuets, the first of which made one long to hear Miss Pires in Domenico Scarlatti.

Mozart's D minor Fantasia, its Adagio shaken by a rare range of dynamic weight and measure, provided a bridge from Bach to Mozart's B flat Sonata, K333. The crucial point about this sonata is the relationship of speed between movements; and Pires judged it to a nicety. The opening Allegro was dashing fast, faster indeed than a pianist could have brought off with one atom less of mercury in her veins than Miss Pires. But it meant that the Andante could be exactly that — a clear, lucid song out of which the final Allegretto could sidle on its way.

Pires's playing is essentially intensive, rather than expansive. It was because of this, perhaps, that her Schubert B flat Sonata, D960, for all the strength of its intellectual design and the fine sensibility within its phrasing, was less than fully satisfying.

Hilary Finch

Muti triumphs

OPERA

Nabucco
La Scala, Milan

Riccardo Muti, La Scala's new music director, has chosen to start his term of office with *Nabucco*. He shows how much can be achieved, even in such an uneven work, by thorough preparation of every component and by close attention to the precise details of a composer's requirements: a brand-new critical edition was used. The result was an unqualified musical triumph.

It is hard to imagine a more vivid or compelling account of this score: its strengths were fully revealed and its weaknesses were so skilfully handled that they seemed unimportant in the context of the whole. In the first act finale, for example, when impending massacre and destruction can too easily sound like comic Rossinian confusion, Muti generated a frenzied but incisively articulated whirlwind of sound that was utterly appropriate. Even the brass band that accompanies the King's first entrance, surely the nadir of the opera, was made to sound almost regal.

The uncredited protagonist of *Nabucco* is of course the Jewish people, and the Scala chorus's singing in this role was magnificent. The opening scene was almost painfully loud, but not in the least

raucous or harsh. And "Va pensiero"? There is a tradition in Italy of performing it in the manner of a battle hymn, so Muti had emphasized to the Press that it is "the submissive lament of a defeated people". It took the form of a nostalgic dream of great beauty, the sections of the chorus blending perfectly to form a single voice. It was greeted by such a prolonged wave of audience hysteria that Muti was forced to enquire if before he could continue.

Nabucco is commonly played as a brutal, rough-hewn warrior — not, therefore, a part one would readily associate with Renato Bruson; his restrained bearing, soft-grained voice and impeccable musical manners make him seem unlikely to relish sacking a temple. This created problems of credibility in the early scenes, but in fact Nabucco's finest music comes after the onset of his madness, and requires a seamless legato and complete command of bel canto — in this Bruson was superb.

Gheena Dimitrova gave a thrilling portrayal of Abigaille's fury — her combination of power and fullness of tone above the stage is outstanding — and her characterization was more sharply etched than when she recorded the part with Sinopoli three years ago. She also negotiated the lyrical passages extremely well, although real warmth of expression was missing.

This prodigiously gifted musician will play here regularly.

One might have prejudged the soprano Charlotte de Rothschild's lieder recital unfairly because of her obvious connections, but to my great relief it turned out that she has a highly cultivated affinity with the genre. Whether she is portraying Mussorgsky's whining child, a lover or a folk-singer, her intelligence as a performer always comes through, despite the fact that the voice has undeniable defects. Sporting lyrics in five different languages, she sang some charmingly dignified songs by her ancestor Mathilde which had a Mendelssohnian purity flavoured with some very subtle shifts of harmony.

James Methuen-Campbell



Renato Bruson, complete with golden wings

Pasta Burchuladze possesses a voice of impressive volume and resonance, which he used to telling effect as Zaccaria when rousing the Hebrews from their lethargy, and scaled down to a finely-controlled mezzo voice in his great prayer. However the sounds he produces are not remotely Italian — which may not matter much in itself, but unlike his distinguished Slavonic predecessors his voice lacks the suppleness to infect Verdi's music naturally.

Raquel Pieroni and Mario Lupari gave well-judged performances as Fenena and the

High Priest of Baal; the young tenor Bruno Beccaria pushed his pleasant voice too hard in an attempt to compete with the big sounds surrounding him.

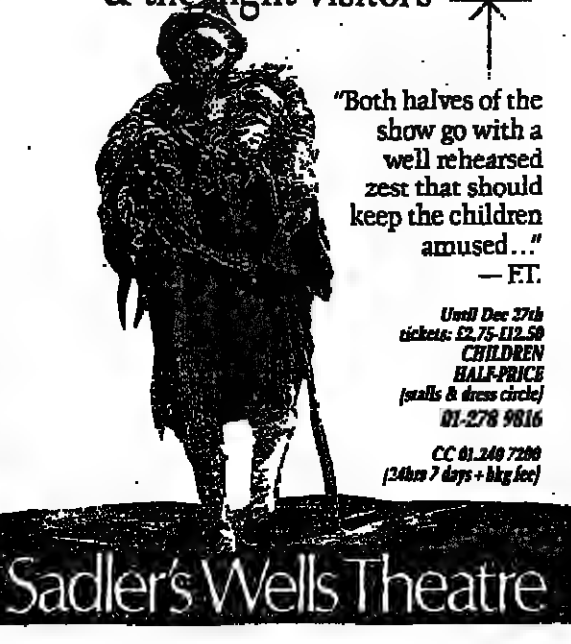
The visual side of the production did not match the general level of musical excellence; in fact it rarely matched the music at all. Mauro Carosi's set represented a succession of different approaches: a solidly "realistic" ancient temple, a palace apartment consisting solely of an enormous wounded beast (Lion of Judah?), the banks of the Euphrates evoked by a single skyscraper. Odette Nicoletti's costumes ranged from unimaginative (smart, freshly laundered slaves) to mildly outrageous — Nabucco seemed to have sprouted gilded wings of his own. The director, Robert de Simone, moved the large chorus about efficiently, but this was small compensation for his failure to relate crucial events clearly. This *Nabucco* not only opened La Scala's season but also an Italian state television project called "Tutto Verdi", in admiring emulation of the BBC Shakespeare series — screened in Italy under the rubric "Tutto Shakespeare".

Nigel Jamieson

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SPECTRUM

Taking the people to the patients

A Victorian mental health asylum could be turned into an Italian-style town, with the patients still at its heart, thanks to an architect's imaginative plan. Marjorie Wallace reports

When Claybury was built in 1893, it was something of a showpiece, an asylum devoted to the care of the mentally ill, with its own ornate theatre and church seating 2,500 patients, its laundry and workshops and a 300-acre farm and orchard. It was planned to be self-sufficient. Lavishly designed, it was a memorial to Victorian guilt about madness.

It had been built originally on wooded slopes 230 feet above the open Essex countryside, 10 miles north-east of London. Today, its water tower and imposing chimneys dominate the surrounding sea of drab and featureless suburbs. The hospital, now ageing and slightly forlorn, is expensive to run. Its formal landscaped gardens have been turned to grass; its Victorian Gothic pavilions are patched with incongruous modern extensions. Its farm is derelict and most of its patients have gone.

Thirty years ago there were 2,300 people living here; now there are 800. The exodus, which began in the late 1950s with the discovery of neuroleptic drugs, is accelerating as a result of government policy to return patients to the community. In 1993 Claybury will be closed.

But what's to be done with this Victorian hilltop town when it finally shuts its doors? What will happen to the 300 patients still in need of continuing care?

John Burrell, a 39-year-old community architect from London, grew interested in Claybury after studying Victorian asylums, and believes he has found the answer. He sees Claybury as the capital of the suburbs it surveys — almost like an Italian hilltop town. Within the sturdy walls of the Victorian buildings it could contain shops, a leisure centre, offices, flats and houses.

The water tower would be fitted with a clock and become the "cathedral" of the new city. Beneath it, a busy piazza would serve as the town centre with cafes, ice-cream kiosks and buskers on the steps of what used to be the boiler-room chimney. There would be fountains, walkways, coffee houses and shops built on the gallery principle. The old asylum theatre would be retained as part of an entertainment centre with an amphitheatre and several cinemas. The old "airing courts", or exercise yards for the patients, could be converted into smart urban squares. The 200-acre site would house about 3,000 people.

But Burrell's idea goes fur-

ther than simply re-using a heritage of elegant and well-constructed buildings. He proposes to find room within the site for a 40-bed short-stay hospital for mental patients and flats and hostels for the 300 long-stay patients. He plans that their accommodation should look out over the "airing courts", which would become their private and secluded gardens.

The Victorians believed that these hospitals were a humane way of protecting mad people from the stresses of normal life," Burrell says. "They also thought they could stop mental disease spreading by fading out reproduction among the unfit." The female wards were on one side of the hospital, the male on the other. Between them were the central services: the theatre,

Forest, the area health authority, is already countering opposition from local residents to such a proposition.

The great advantage of Burrell's scheme is that it brings the community to the patients — "and since the patients are there first," he points out, "the newcomers can't object."

Luxury houses have already been built right up to Claybury's boundary fence. "You can imagine the opposition there would have been if those houses had been there first and we were trying to get planning permission to build this hospital."

The principal could apply to many other mental hospitals of similar size: Berley, Goodmayes, Hill End, Horton, Manor, Menstone, Netherne, Seavalls, Swansea and West Park — all have the potential to be developed as city centres.

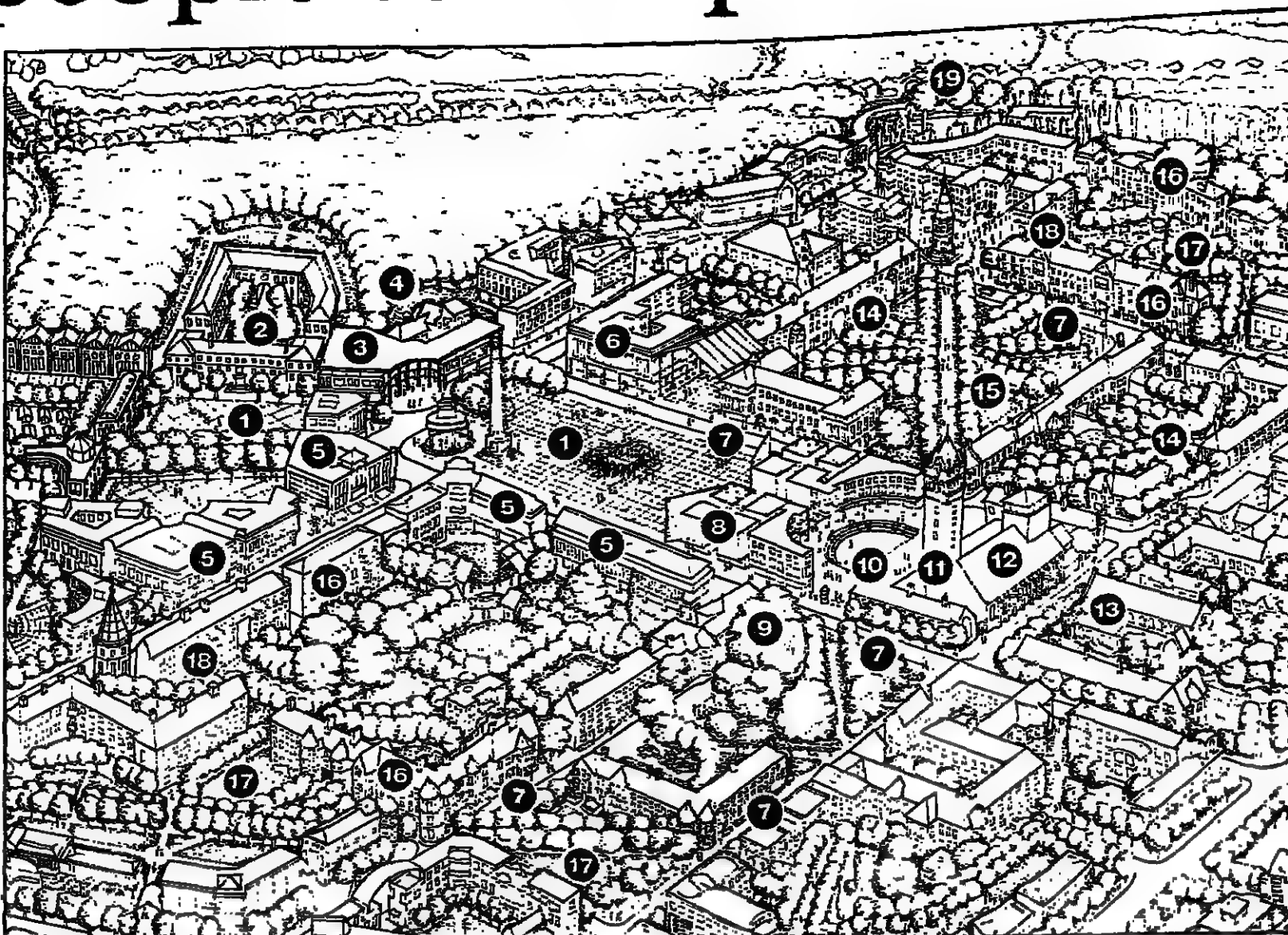
Burrell's ideas are being taken seriously by several health authorities, including Leicester which has commissioned a study. During the last few years while hospitals have been running down, many acres of valuable land and buildings have been sold piecemeal to developers and the proceeds have disappeared into the health authorities' general funds. When this happens the mentally ill do not necessarily benefit, despite the Department of Health's assurances that they will.

The Claybury scheme was recently presented at Westminster, where it attracted interest among the Commons, all-party mental health group. "It is an exciting and novel scheme," says Nicholas Winterbottom MP, who is fighting for the rights of discharged mental hospital patients.

Professor Kathleen Jones, of York University, the leading expert on the social care of discharged mental patients, is also enthusiastic. "You'll get executives living there. It will be so unmarked, the stigma will be removed from mental illness," she says.

"You can't plant patients into the community like currants in a bun. On this scheme they would be there from the beginning. There could be a whole range of places for them from flats where they would be totally independent to group homes where there would be staff on duty day and night."

John Burrell conceived his idea when he saw a derelict mental hospital in Trieste. There were squatters and rats. "I would hate to see that happen in this country," he says.



Claybury (left) as it is now and (above) as it will become if John Burrell's imaginative plan is taken up by the health authorities

- 1 New public squares, shops, banks, cafes, library
- 2 Former nurses' home integrated and converted
- 3 Health administration building
- 4 High dependence accommodation
- 5 New retail building
- 6 New office building
- 7 New streets created
- 8 New cinemas
- 9 New day centre
- 10 New open-air arena space/square
- 11 Existing water tower adapted as clocktower
- 12 Assembly hall adapted to local theatre
- 13 Existing chapel in new setting and grounds
- 14 Sheltered housing
- 15 Existing landscaped airing courts improved as public and private gardens
- 16 Typical residential accommodation, private, public, housing association
- 17 Existing paths linked to form pedestrian routes
- 18 Special hostel as part of ordinary terraced housing
- 19 One of the new high street connections to local streets



Squirring the inner circle

The duties of the clerk of the Privy Council include far more than drawing up rotas

Hidden away in a rabbit warren of comfortable rooms in the centre of Whitehall sits a former civil servant from the Home Office. He is now the custodian of one of Britain's most elite constitutional bodies, whose workings include quiet traditions dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries.

Geoffrey Ivor de Deney is clerk of the Privy Council, that inner circle of privileged politicians and public servants who are sworn to conduct their business with the Queen in total secrecy.

At present, de Deney is preparing for the next meeting of the council which is to be held this week. He has already sent out formal letters to four Privy Counsellors from the Government to attend the meeting at Buckingham Palace. The letter advises them to wear "ordinary clothes" for the occasion.

The ranks of the Privy Council have now swelled to a record 390 Right Honourable Members. A quorum requires only three.

Anyone selected for membership of the Privy Council, whether he be the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition, a distinguished judge, a cleric or a senior Commonwealth politician, has to rely on the careful coaching of the clerk to ensure that when he is brought before the Queen for the formal oath of allegiance, he is aware of the niceties of the traditions involved. These include kissing the hand of the Sovereign



Geoffrey de Deney coaches counsellors on the niceties

without actually making contact.

Mr de Deney, 58, who has been clerk for two and a half years, draws up a rota of Privy Counsellors. He prefers where possible to summon the busiest Cabinet ministers only once or twice a year because of the pressures of their work.

One reason for this is that the summons to attend before the Queen can often involve a long train journey. Most of the nine or so Privy Council meetings a year are at Buckingham Palace or Windsor, but the counsellors must go to wherever the Sovereign is residing at the time, be it Balmoral, Sandringham or even the Royal Yacht Britannia.

Most of the Council business is expressed in Proclamations or Orders in Council. Proclamations are reserved for important subjects, such as states of emergency, the withdrawal of a coin, or the dissolution of Parliament and require the Queen's signature. Orders in Council are needed for certain constitutional powers required by Government under Acts of Parliament which cannot be authorised by ministers, such as the picking of boundaries for election purposes.

Before the council begins,

down. They remain standing, a tradition which dates back to Queen Victoria.

Lord Whitelaw holds the List of Business, or agenda, the Queen stands at the head looking down the line and de Deney, the only one wearing formal clothes — striped morning trousers and short black jacket — stands facing the Privy Counsellors. Lord Whitelaw reads down the list and the Queen pronounces her approval for each order. It's all over in about 15 to 20 minutes.

If the Queen is out of the country or otherwise engaged, the rules are that two members of the Royal Family must stand in for her. Recently it was the Queen Mother and Prince Edward.

Michael Evans

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NEW YORK FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Thrilling Met
by moonlight

Who would puff the puff-ball skirt? That was the question as the guests gussed up for the gala night at the Metropolitan Museum.

Dance is the theme of the Costume Institute's exhibition, and dancing through a Manhattan blizzard to celebrate came newly-wed Kitty and Calvin Klein, wearing the evening's high fashion accessory — the Thanksgiving holiday suitan. Kitty sported a mini crinoline in black taffeta below the season's ubiquitous strapless top.

New York's hottest fashion property Donna Karan, also sporting a tan, showed off her own-label strapless, swathed jersey dress. Other rock folk included the diminutive Giorgio Sant'Angelo, ch. libic-faced Bill Blass and Oscar de la Renta, and Japanese Issey Miyake and Hanae ("Madame Butterfly") Morae. Saint Laurent's Pierre Berge, off the plane from YSL's Moscow exhibit, was just in time to catch Paloma Picasso deserting Yves for an empire-line turtleneck in bronze taffeta and crocheted, swagged with mink tails, by rising Paris star Christian Lacroix.

On a label count at this prestige gathering, it was a fair night for European designers, with Nancy Kissinger in Valentino's sequins and brown crepe, Betsy Bloomingdale in Dior, and a glamorous Estée Lauder, in festive crimson velvet from Givenchy couture.

The fashion night belonged to couturier Arnold Scaasi, who had made 32 dresses for the Costume Institute's party, including the best of the puff-balls — delectable peach taffeta worn by Kathleen Hearst of the newspaper dynasty.

Bouffant 1950s tulle below a Cinderella waistline dances chic to chic with Patou's flirty beaded-chaleton-dresses and brocade ballgowns for the minuet.

All the romance and glamour of the social dance is expressed in the exhibition at the Museum. The show opens with exquisite capes and coats, from Poirot's lampshade of chrome-yellow satin, to Schiaparelli's gilded Sun King embroidery on black velvet.

A burst of flamenco music introduces a roomful of Spanish inspiration, which includes a Naughty Nineties painting of a roguish Carmencita and her style reinterpreted by Balenciaga, Dior and Saint Laurent.

The jazz age brings us "The Dansant" and a stunning dress embroidered with fireworks by Chanel, in 1938. A dancing couple turn out to be the Duke of Windsor, stylish in ink blue tails against the Duchess's slither of silver lame circles from Vionnet.

The sexual pulse of modern music runs through the exhibition's 1960s display, which has Courreges's black vinyl midriff on black silk organza, Paco Rabanne's iridescent plastic discs on a tulle dress, and Ungaro's skimpy 1967 garment revealing a cleavage at the rear.

Karl Lagerfeld has taken his KL sports-wear business out of New York. The sportswear line, launched in the Big Apple in autumn 1985, will now be based in Paris.

The pickets are out at Norma Kamali's boutique on 56th street to stop the feminist fashion designer from setting up her own manufacturing company with non-union labour. She has shut down her wholesale business in defiance. OMO Norma Kamali has always been the title tag. The initials stand for On My Own.

The Big Apple is a-buzz with designer people in designer clothes, and Europeans are covering their fair share of famous backs



Newly-wed Calvin and Kelly Klein: strapless mini crin



Above left: Paloma Picasso in Lacroix mink tails. Right: Estée Lauder in Givenchy velvet



Kathleen Hearst in peach puff ball by Arnold Scaasi
Photographs: Tony Palmieri/WWD

COMMENT
Quality street

Uptown, upbeat and upscale is the message from Manhattan. The sheer glamour of the New York stores, the cornucopia of luxury goods and the imaginative presentation is overwhelming.

The store windows are strong like gems down Fifth Avenue. They need chains across the pavement at Lord and Taylor to control the crowds viewing their miniature scenes of Manhattan Christmas Past. Saks Fifth Avenue offers elaborate and luxurious Icelandic snow scenes.

The catalyst for "quality" has been Ralph Lauren and the aspirational old-England life style of his Madison Avenue store. People are talking about the "Laurenization" of New York, as new money abandons glitz in favour of fine leather and cashmere.

That is good news for the European boutiques on Madison, and for the New Wave US designers like Donna Karan. Her sensuous spring collection has all-in-one body blouses in heavy four-ply silk, the softest cashmere and wisps of chiffon, in tender colours of sea shell pink.

Ralph Lauren himself takes a palette of water colours and brushes it over his simple separates and silky 1930-style printed dresses. His store is filled with Christmas card vignettes — country hearth and home as the setting for rugs and woolies, tartan blankets and club ties.

Uptown's quality look has spread not just to the gentrified Upper West Side, but also to Barney's new women's store, where designer boutiques are grouped round a central atrium and where fashionable decorator André Putnam has designed the cosmetic hall and a surreal Christmas window.

Barney's venture and the general emphasis in New York on quality marks the coming of age of the 1960s customer who is trading up. New York's hype on quality suggests a consumer maturity that is spreading from uptown down — and may soon reach the old world from the new.



Mariel Hemingway, above, the actress with an anti-glamour streak, talks about the importance of being earnest

Sam plays
it her way

Sam's Cafe is hot in Manhattan. But the young crowd hanging out in the fashionable diner do not always recognize the fresh-faced, Amazonian, all-American girl who gives the place its name. But by the time Mariel Hemingway — nickname Sam — has appeared in *Superman IV*, she will be a familiar scion of the famous dynasty.

"I am interested in healthy food, good food, clean food", says the budding film star about the restaurant that she and her husband Steve Christian run on the uppermost East side. "I think restaurants are about food and eating, not about assaulting you with decor."

As in food, so with fashion: the lithe and sporty Mariel Hemingway seems typecast in the earlier role of preppy kid she played in Woody Allen's *Manhattan*.

"I don't believe in that whole star image thing", she says. "I am open and honest about who I am and I don't think about presenting myself to the public. I think about what makes me feel good."

She is wearing blue jeans, cowboy boots and a checked jacket from her favourite designer, the Italian Giorgio Armani. She later swaps the

denim for a slim skirt and high heels. ("But I have to be careful because I am so tall already.")

The only *Superman* film outfit she likes for her role as an aspiring editor of *The Daily Planet* is a trouser suit cut on simple lines and in the deep sky blue of her beloved Idaho. She has a Hemingway longing for the open country where she rides bareback. "I am not one of those women who can't bear the thought of getting on a horse without a saddle", she says.

She accepts gratefully the connection with her famous grandfather, Ernest Hemingway, and with her actress sister Margaux, who per-

suaded her to appear with her in the film *Lispector*.

In *Superman*, her fictional character is not at all interested in the derring-do of *Superman*, but thinks the bespectacled Clark Kent is "quite wonderful".

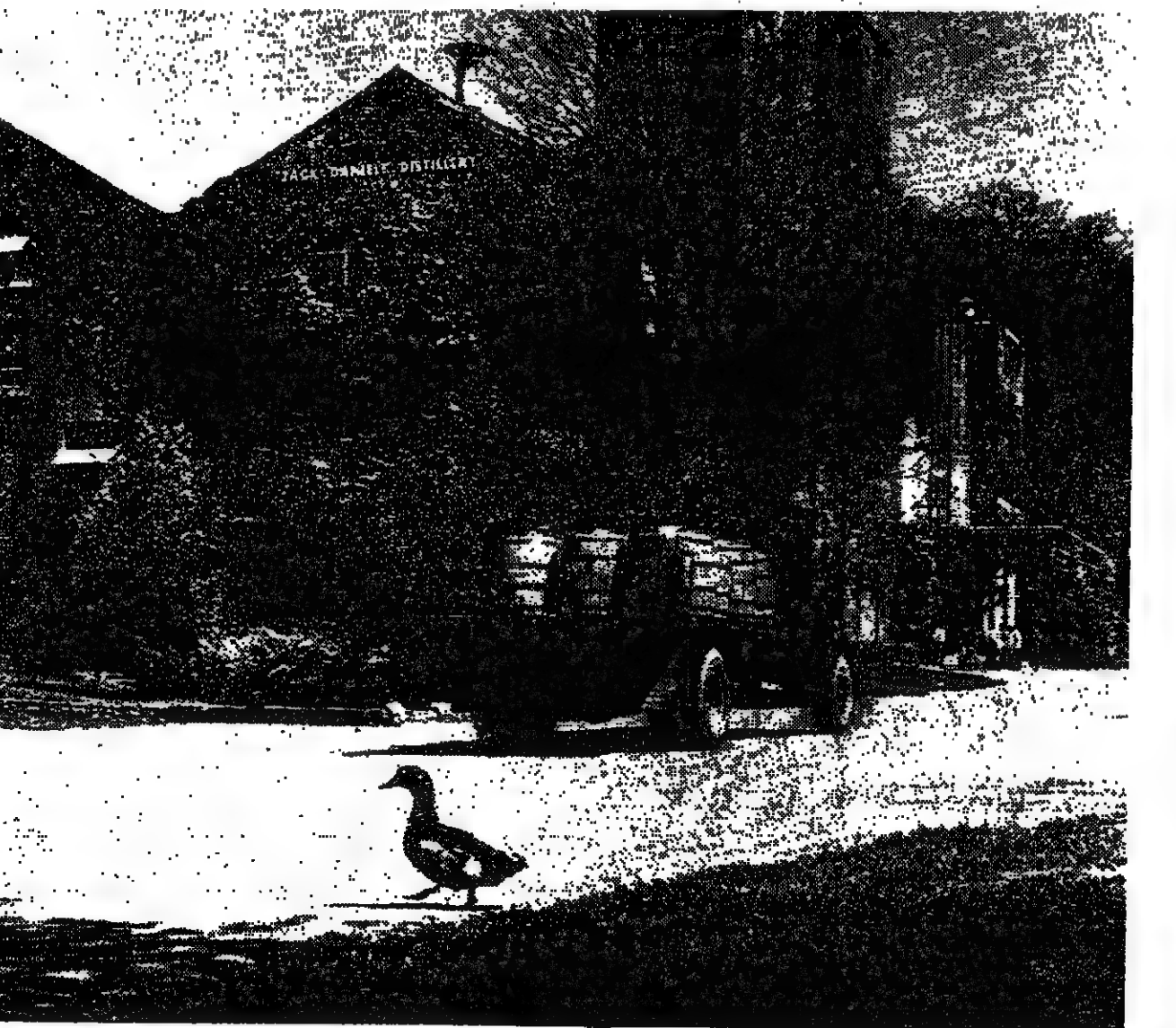
This seems to be typecasting, for 25-year-old Mariel is surprisingly unmoved by the glamour of stardom. When she goes to a film premiere it may be in the "simple clean look" of her favourite American designer Calvin Klein, or in the sleek, strapless Chanel dress she wore for the royal opening of *Labyrinth* in London this month. But she says that "the two thousand dollar dress is not something

that I want to invest money in. When you get into very glamorous things, you look like you are competing. I don't want to look as though I spent eight months shopping for it."

She has worked out an eating programme for herself, eating only fruit through the day, although Sam's Cafe serves grilled meat, chicken or fish and takes as its motif her "fetish", the dairy cow. "I went through crazy health regimes, but now I've come to a nice way of eating that works for me", she explains.

It is hard to find a streak of romance in the down-to-earth Miss Hemingway. She describes the uplifting drama of film flying, when her well-honed body is encased in a fibre glass mould, as "a completely humiliating experience". She will not dream up a bogus Bogart connection with her nickname "Sam" and even scorns the legendary tale that her sister Margaux was conceived on the eponymous chateau bottle.

"Being part of a famous dynasty is nothing new for me", she says. "The Hemingway name has certainly been useful. I like to think that I have earned a few of my own stripes — but not nearly as many as the name holds."



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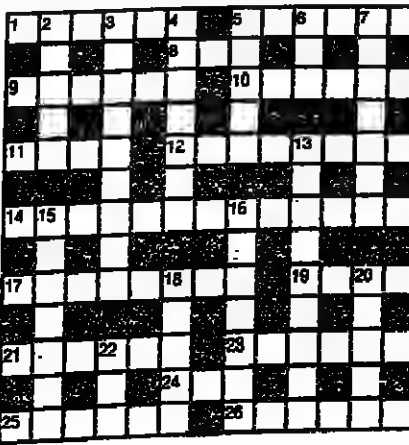
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3 Type (3)
9 Lavish (4,3)
10 Memo receptacle (2,3)
11 East end church recess (4)
12 Flyover (8)
14 Great Exhibition building (7,6)
17 Clergylike (6)
19 Consume alcohol regularly (4)
21 Soldier's lodgings (6)
23 Sudden storm (6)
24 Fool (3)
25 Leisurely walk (6)
26 Hautboy player (6)

DOWN

- 2 Pagle (5)
3 Cypress (9)
4 Qualification document (7)
5 Evade work (5)



SOLUTION TO NO 1132

- ACROSS: 1 Helium 5 Wool 8 Bleak 9 Trivial 11 Catacomb
13 Parr 15 Vaquero 18 Opah 19 Shamew 22 Emulous 23 Carve
24 Sub 25 Sapper
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THE TIMES DIARY

Plane speaking

The suggestion by Jim Prior, the GEC chairman, that the rival Nimrod and Boeing early-warning aircraft should be subject to some form of independent assessment has caused wry amusement in aerospace and defence circles. The two jets have already been subject to both "paper" and actual flying evaluation by a wide range of civilian scientists, military experts and the RAF. Yesterday, in Whitehall, the talk was of where the new independent experts might come from. The overwhelming consensus was — the Russians. "We could always ask them which aircraft they found it easier to fly against," said one Ministry of Defence wag. "After all, they're the only ones who would really know."

Wait for it

The Falkland Islands are abuzz with rumours of a visit by the Queen next year, to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Argentine invasion. A PHSpoll tells me that residents of Port Stanley are even now preparing for the royal advent, which they claim Buckingham Palace is code-naming Operation Maldives. Yesterday I received the inevitable denial from the palace. The chief press officer, Michael Shea, told me: "Oh no, there are no such plans." But he added: "That is not to say that there are no plans for a royal visit at some future date."

Crime school

Fraud investigators attending a seminar at Liverpool University on corruption will be educated in that dubious art by someone more qualified than most on financial dirty dealings — John Stonehouse, the former Labour minister who was jailed for seven years in 1976 for fraud, deception and theft after faking his drowning off a Florida beach. The seminar's organizer, Alan Dole, has also lined up T. Dan Smith, jailed for his part in the Poulson scandal in the Seventies. Dole explains: "We invited policemen, a member of Lloyd's regulating body and someone from the Audit Commission to speak, and we thought that we should also have people who had actually done it."

Disestablished

Dublin's *Irish Times* — no relation — has chosen a new editor, Conor Brady. A journalist in his forties, Brady succeeds the veteran Douglas Gageby who moved the paper in tune with a changing Ireland from its former role as a bastion of the Anglo-Irish establishment to a position now more identified with the modern values of the republic. In recent years the paper has developed a reputation for liberalism and has confronted several internal scandals connected with the security forces. Significantly, Brady, the son of a former senior police officer, becomes the first Roman Catholic to grace the editor's chair.

Cool customer

Not ones to accept gifts even for a job well done, two Black Country policemen found they had a lot of explaining to do after returning stolen property to an Indian garage owner. The latest edition of *Police* magazine tells how the two detectives, after enduring lengthy monologues by the garage man on the efficiency of the police, returned to their unmarked CID patrol car only to find it had been equipped with a new stereo and sunroof — a gift from the grateful garage owner.

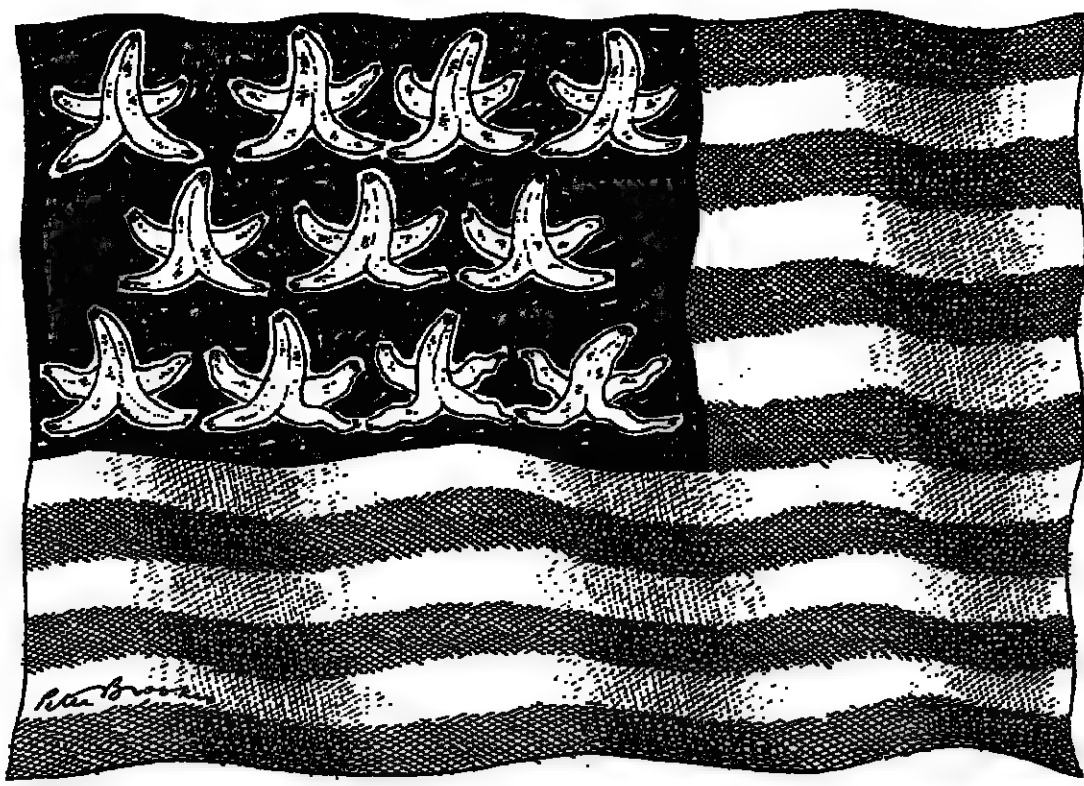


"What kind of early-warning system is it that can't see we don't want it?"

No secret now

The next imbrolio set to engulf the BBC will be over *The Secret Society*, a series by *New Statesman* journalist Duncan Campbell, to be shown in the New Year. Its subject matter — the security services — will doubtless touch government nerves still raw from the Peter Wright case. Already the right-wing Freedom Association, chaired by Norris McWhirter, has taken legal advice suggesting the BBC may be in breach of its charter if it does not allow it a chance to reply to Campbell's "propaganda". In fact, I learn, Campbell tried to persuade Julian Lewis of the pro-NATO Peace Through Security outfit to appear on the programme to his case. Unprepared to "legitimise" Campbell's partisan series by appearing, Lewis instead informed on the BBC to his friends in the Freedom Association.

In the first of an occasional series being published jointly in The Times and New York Times, Zbigniew Brzezinski looks at the prospects for America's post-Irangate foreign policy



How Reagan must repair the damage

which would induce Americans to rally together around the president and the flag. More likely is a cautious exploitation of any new opportunities that may open up, on the model of Soviet conduct in the mid-1970s.

Moreover, this condition gives the Soviet Union a better chance to pursue its long-term goal of dominating the Eurasian land-mass with its policy of seeking to improve its relations with western Europe, and with Japan and China in the Far East, in both cases hoping to weaken the connection between the Eurasian extremes and Moscow's principal rival, the United States.

A longer-range negative effect of this crisis is the damage it does to the American public's confidence in its own government. One of Reagan's great accomplishments was the apparent revival of America's self-confidence and its respect for the presidency. The recent events have set this back and have contributed to a revival of demagogic partisanship.

The investigations will doubtless run their course, and other revelations may yet emerge. But irrespective of those developments, it is essential that in the coming weeks the president moves decisively to infuse his foreign policy with a sense of momentum and direction.

On decision-making, he has to recognize that the problem over the last several years has been not that the National Security Council has been too strong but that it has been too weak. The NSC exists to coordinate and integrate foreign policy according to the president's design. A weak NSC contributes to the breakdown of the decision-making process.

The appointment of a new NSC adviser is likely to infuse the council with greater strength and a sense of direction. But the adviser can be effective only if he is guaranteed that the NSC will not be decapitated by reforms as a result of overreaction to the crisis. A strong adviser, with the capacity to develop effective coordination, will also help the Secretary of State play his pre-eminent role in articulating foreign policy on the president's behalf and in integrating the Defence Secretary's contribution into a strategic design.

Reagan needs to clarify what his strategic doctrine is and what it implies for the future. He should, at the earliest opportunity, clarify what his goals are in the arms-control negotiations. This should not involve visionary and potentially counter-productive utopias but a coherent and concrete programme of middle-level initiatives, designed to stabilize the strategic relationship with Moscow.

It is certainly not too late to seek a specific arms-control agreement about nuclear forces in Europe and some reductions in the overall totals of strategic warheads as part of an interim agreement.

Beyond that, the president should move to translate gradually his Strategic Defence Initiative from research into reality. He cannot do so if he keeps talking about an eventual "astrodome" over the US while in the meantime the Soviets succeed in presenting SDI as the principal obstacle to arms control. Instead, he should now take some of the initial deployment decisions designed to provide for the US a

limited strategic defence capable of protecting America's strategic forces and principal command and control centres.

He could thus ensure that in future negotiations the issue will be what mix of offensive and defensive strategic forces would achieve mutual security. This is the matter that ought to be negotiated and not largely theological discussions about the respective merits of a total SDI or a totally nuclear-free world.

In Central America in the course of the next year, it is likely that the US will confront a serious dilemma. If the Nicaraguan Contras filter, will the US be prepared to accept a Bay of Pigs writ large? What can now be done to reduce that danger? This issue must be examined with a longer strategy in mind. It would be wise for the president and his immediate advisers to take stock.

Real strategic vision lacking at the top

The damage that has been done will take long to heal. A more active effort to mediate between Israel and the Arabs would help to establish America's credentials again as a responsible mediator. Israel's prime minister, Shimon Peres, was truly courageous in his efforts to open a dialogue on the Palestinian issue. He did not obtain the help that he deserved, largely because of America's passivity. The recent debacle calls for a renewed American effort. Otherwise the risk of hostilities is likely gradually to increase.

US foreign policy in the last two years has been largely reactive. It has lacked a larger strategic vision, in part because of the progressive fragmentation of decision-making at the highest level. Only by the restoration of effective presidential leadership can Reagan put behind him the unpleasant memories of Reykjavik and Tehran.

The author was a member of the National Security Council and assistant to President Carter for national security affairs, 1977-81.

Roger Scruton

Triumph of the half-educated

A century ago T.G. Masaryk sought to explain the extraordinary increase in the number of suicides throughout the civilized world. Like Durkheim, he believed that man had become detached from the laws and customs which bound him to society and that, far from welcoming this detachment, he experienced it as a loss of joy and certainty, a failure to find, in his surrounding world, the meaning and purpose which would justify his presence there. In short, his emancipation from society was felt as a loss of freedom, not a gain.

It was not merely the decline of faith, Masaryk argued, which induced this troubled posture. Things were exacerbated by a peculiar modern phenomenon, which he called *Halbbildung* — half-education. It was the prominence in public life of the semi-educated, he suggested, that stirred up the hopes and destroyed the certainties of mankind. All faith was cast in doubt, all morality relativized, and all simple contentment destroyed, by the sarcastic criticism of those who could see just so far as to question the foundations of social order but not so far as to uphold them.

Many things have changed since Masaryk wrote, and suicide could no longer be described as the major social problem. Nevertheless, *der halbbildete Mensch* has not relinquished his central position. The main effect of the small dose of education which is generally administered is to destroy culture, by installing a habit of scepticism. With the rise of social science the stance of the "thinking man" is increasingly assumed to be a stance *outside* society, outside culture, a stance which rejoices in debunking values.

The simpler and more widely available forms of education are therefore invariably secular, cynical and "value-free". They avoid the true task of education, which is not merely to dispense, but to discern and conserve what is valuable. True education is a demanding thing. Its discipline is harder, its range of reference wider, and its standpoint towards the ordinary world of the uneducated more humble than anything a student is likely to come across in a course of sociology.

The semi-educated fear the educated. They will always act to marginalize the defenders of the old disciplines and values, so as to rule in their place. There is a kind of Gresham's Law of the intellect, by which bad education drives out good. The place formerly occupied by wisdom and circumspection is now occupied by scepticism and triviality. Institutions such as universities, publishing houses, churches and the BBC, which used to be bastions of our crumbling

civilization, are now in the hands of people for whom the very word "civilization" is an object of scorn. This intellectual Gresham's Law parallels the law first enunciated by Robert Conquest which is that the more you know about something, the more right-wing you are about it. (By "right-wing" he meant appreciative of true achievements, obedient to authorities, and firm against obstreperous demands for "equality" and "liberation".) Conversely, the more left-wing you are about something (whether it be the style of Jane Austen or nuclear strategy) the less you know about it.

It is a pity that when Norman Tebbit launched his attack on the BBC nobody was at hand to remind him of the laws of Gresham and Conquest. It is not the case that the BBC is in the hands of a left-wing conspiracy. Its manifest "anti-capitalist" bias is no different from the anti-capitalist bias of the churches and the universities. It is neither intended nor planned, but emerges from the spontaneous co-operation of a thousand half-educated individuals, each of whom sees his mission as that of questioning established power.

It is no more likely that right-wing opinions will be fairly discussed by the BBC than that they will be fairly considered in a university. To see through to their meaning you must first regain at the level of reflection that natural seriousness which people leave behind when they enter the path of education, and which can be regained only by travelling further along that path than most are inclined to go.

However, the semi-educated are as hungry for moral values as the rest of us. Having learned how to despise their forebears' values and to pour scorn on every other source of natural contentment, they find themselves drawn into a morality of opposition. They begin to see the defender of traditional values not as an intellectual opponent, with whom you might decently argue and from whom you might learn, but as a demon.

"Right-wing" views begin to be perceived, not as mistaken, but as evil, and everybody who stands publicly for them will become an object of fierce moral abuse. If you are not part of the broad liberal consensus — the consensus of the semi-educated — then you are an enemy of the people. That, I believe, is why no right-wing speaker can be guaranteed a safe platform at a modern university, and why no right-wing politician can be sure that he will not be labelled by the BBC.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

moreover... Miles Kington

Peking for all the Test news

When you are away for a month on your first trip to the Far East, as I have just been, it is very easy to get out of touch with the news. I would go so far as to say that it is hard to keep in touch with the news. I would go even further: one of the main reasons for going to the Far East is to experience the joy and serenity of being out of touch with the news.

When you get back, though, your first duty is to catch up with events. To give you some idea of how quickly things change these days, I can tell you that when I left in mid-November the two main news stories were the curious goings-on about arms for Iran, and the strange behaviour of the British government in the Australia spy-book case. Robert Armstrong, with all the reserve for which the British civil servant is noted, had just had a tussle with a photographer at Heathrow. When I returned last Saturday the two main stories were about the curious Iranian arms goings-on and the strange behaviour of the British government in the Australia spy-book case.

Well, as in my absence you have had no news, only day-by-day developments in two soap operas, I feel I should bring you any news I have managed to pick up on my travels. The three lead stories I have brought back through customs are: Bangkok may well be building an M25 made entirely out of water, the best cricket coverage in the Far East is in the *China Daily* from Peking, and the main cultural event this month in Rangoon is *Peter Pan*.

The question of water in Bangkok seemed quite important the day we arrived. There had been an enormous storm the night before, and all the main roads into the capital were under water. Many of the inhabitants live on canals anyway, so there was no panic, just a patient wait for the water to recede so that they could see which were roads and which were canals. But the river Chao Phraya, which flows through Bangkok carrying large clumps of greenery and swarms of boats smuggling antiques from both sides of the river, is liable to flood at the best of times and there is a serious plan to build a river by-pass (Chao Phraya B) right round the city. I have a *Bangkok Post* feature article on the subject. Without going into details, I can reveal that it makes the Sizewell controversy look small.

Test in Australia. If I have one criticism of the *Guardian Daily* in Rangoon, it is that it gives considerably more coverage to Burmese girls' volleyball than English cricket. It has a point — Burmese girls' volleyball is a much faster, prettier game — but I feel it should at least give the Test result.

Burma being a small country, I bumped into the editor of the *Guardian Daily* at Rangoon airport, where he was saying farewell to a delegation of Chinese writers and journalists, and was able to ask him what the score was. He gave me the only inscrutable smile I received in the Orient, and vanished. I later realized that I should have asked the Chinese writers, as the *China Daily* turns out to have the best sports coverage of any Communist paper I have met, as well as the most interesting letters about whether Chinese women should wear bikinis while weight-lifting.

I also bumped into a young American from Unicef who is producing *Peter Pan* for the Rangoon expatriate community. He said he had not entirely solved the technical problems of getting people flying, but he was in touch with Buddhist monks who had an ancient technique for getting gold decorations to the top of pagodas on high wires.

The next time I passed through Rangoon I was introduced to a British Council man who turned out to be starring as one of the lesser pirates (I told you Burma was a small place), and he hinted darkly to me that there had been one or two accidents in rehearsal, connected with the flying. Obviously a wonderful story in the making here, but alas by the time the run opened I was on my way back through Hong Kong. The *South China Morning Post* devoted all its drama space to the First Hong Kong Brecht Festival. Not a word about *Peter Pan*.

The rest of the paper was devoted to the coming of Christmas which, in a colony where the permanent governor is Mammon, is taken much more seriously than here, to the point where shops remain open on Christmas and Boxing Day. I couldn't find a review either in the *Bangkok Post*, which is still obsessed with the river Chao Phraya. And there is no point in looking in the British press, which only carries reports of Irangate and M15. I shall just have to rely on returning to Burma and bumping into the *Guardian Daily's* drama critic. As I said, it's a small country.

Scythe still slashing in Whitehall

Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent, finds the cost-cutting going well

Central Unit on Purchasing (CUP) set out to save the taxpayer £400 million a year, or 5 per cent of the target expenditure, by 1987. After nearly a year of aggressive housekeeping inside Whitehall, Willy has discovered that purchasing is the Cinderella department of the civil service. Anyone with ambitions to rise up the ladder spends as little time as possible in the paper clip and furniture department, with the result that the wasteful traditions have been allowed to carry on unchecked and no real attempt has been made to cut back on the government's annual £7 billion purchasing bill.

Willy commented: "Government purchasing is usually a part-time operation carried out by amateurs with little formal training. To be really successful in purchase and supply you have to be aggressive, dig your heels in and be prepared to take risks. The people I come across are very nice individually but they haven't joined the civil service to be aggressive."

However, realizing that the Willy drive had the full backing of the prime minister, Whitehall reacted enthusiastically. In the first year, CUP has reduced the 1985/86 purchasing budget by £70 million, a 1.2 per cent cut, and in the current financial year the target is £109 million, a 1.7 per cent reduction. But the savings are still far behind the sort of targets which the private sector, particularly the oil industry at present, would set itself. Willy has made it clear that he expects much better results.

So far the departments with smaller budgets have been the pacesetters. For example, the National Savings department cut back in the financial year 1985/86 by £3.4 million, inland Revenue by £4.8 million, and the Stationery Office by £9.3 million. But three departments, including Agriculture and the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, which has 135 stores, were unable to record what they had achieved.

Spurred on by the Willy unit, some departments have in-

roduced novel ideas for saving. The Royal Mint has saved more than £600,000 by the increased use of scrap rather than virgin material and its purchasing officers have been told to try to save the equivalent of their annual salaries in their negotiations. But despite the enthusiasm of many of the departments to cooperate, it seems unlikely that the ambition of reaching a 5 per cent cutback by next April will be realized.

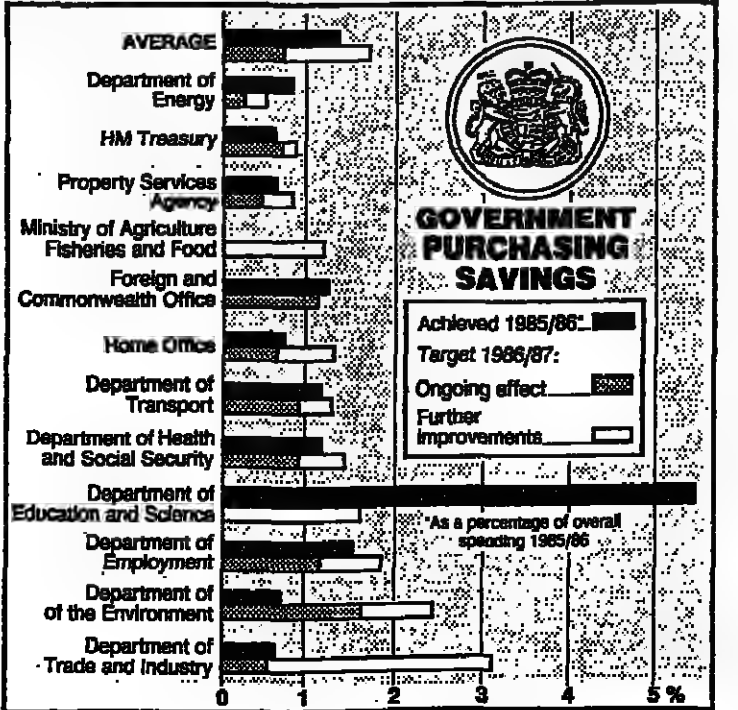
Strenuous efforts are being made to tackle one of the worst areas of waste, the huge stockpiles scattered around the country. Excluding Defence equipment and the Common Market Agricultural Policy food stocks, central government stores are estimated to be worth about £150 million. But no one knows whether this is accurate because many departments have failed to keep proper inventories.

But it has been worked out that it costs £50 million just to look after the stockpiles. For example, stocks of stationery are worth about £75 million and will last for many years. About a quarter could become obsolete or unusable.

So far, departments have set themselves a stock reduction target of only 1 per cent (£10 million) by next April but the Environment Department hopes to cut its main stationery store by 60 per cent by the end of next March, 1988.

Willy believes that civil servants have a tendency to set themselves targets which they know they can achieve and so avoid any trouble, whereas the private sector sets targets that really stretch the purchasing departments.

To ensure that the Willy impact remains a positive force after he has returned to Shell, every department is being encouraged to employ private-sector personnel as consultants. In a few cases, such as the Home Office, department purchasing officers have already become enthusiastic converts to private-sector practices.





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AIDS AND MORALS

Almost exactly twelve years ago, Sir Keith Joseph threw away his chance of leading the Tory Party when he delivered a speech advocating government measures to make contraception more easily available to people trapped in a "cycle of deprivation". To read his speech today, in the light of the current discussion over how to combat Aids, is to be made aware of how far attitudes have changed in the intervening years.

For the measures he suggested then are distinctly similar to those which the Government has adopted in its campaign against Aids or which it is being urged to adopt by doctors and public health officials. These are that the general public should be made aware in the frankest possible terms that condoms offer some protection against Aids; that advertising restrictions upon condoms — on television, for instance — should be lifted; that in good time they should be distributed free by the Government; and that meanwhile they should be widely available in shops and stores of all kinds.

There is a sort of logic behind this. Aids is a virus transmitted by an exchange of bodily fluids with an infectious person, most often through sexual intercourse. That is why the disease is spread very rapidly by sexual promiscuity which maximises the number of such exchanges. If we leave aside all moral considerations, two methods of limiting the spread of Aids are open to us. The first is the avoidance of

sexual promiscuity — which means either chastity outside marriage or fidelity within it. The second is some form of protective condom which reduces the risk of promiscuity — "safe sex" as it has come to be called.

From a purely technical standpoint, fidelity and chastity are by far the more reliable safeguards. In fact, they offer 100 per cent protection from infection. Safe sex is really no more than "safer sex" since condoms provide against infection only the (very considerable) protection they have always provided against pregnancy. Yet it is "safe sex" rather than sexual restraint which the Government has chosen to emphasise in its campaign.

It is noteworthy that despite the lip-service paid to the importance of "frankness" in the fight against Aids, Ministers from the Health Department have avoided frankness on this point. Instead, they have offered the famous euphemism that people should try to stick to one sexual partner but that, "if that is not possible", they should be sure to use a condom. Other institutions have followed this logic. The very title of the BBC Radio Two campaign on Aids, "Play Safe", is permissive in relation to sex, stern in its hygienic instruction to safety.

The explanation of that phrase — "if that is not possible" — is not hard to discover. Ministers, doubtless on the advice of their officials, take the existing amount of

sexual promiscuity as a given. They do not believe that moral exhortation or even promoting knowledge of the risks of promiscuity will have any effect on behaviour that is inspired by such powerful passions. And they may be partly right insofar as official statements and advertisements will probably be paid less heed than the outlook implicitly recommended by pop songs or television soap operas. But injunctions to "play safe" are just as liable to be disregarded for the same reasons — the more so if, as seems a prudent assumption, people are encouraged to be morally lax are hardly likely to show great practical prudence.

This was a point grasped twelve years ago by Sir Keith. In a notably honest passage, he argued that state provision of contraceptives was a short-term solution that might in some senses aggravate the long-term problem:

"Yet proposals to extend birth control facilities to... potential young unmarried mothers' evokes entirely understandable moral opposition. Is it not condoning immorality? I suppose it is. But which is the lesser evil, until we are able to remove the whole groups and classes of people, undoing the harm done when already weak restraints on strong instincts are further weakened by permissiveness?"

Contraception is only part of society's protection against Aids. It will achieve more if it is promoted in a context of moral restraint.

WOMAN'S ESTATE

Whatever the incentives to joining the married estate, financial advantage is not one of them. The British tax system discriminates against married couples and families to a point where legitimizing a relationship and rearing children within wedlock have become financial liabilities of a high order.

Three groups suffer particularly from the vagaries of the present tax system: married women with significant investment income; married couples buying a house with a mortgage of more than £30,000, who would qualify for tax relief on double that amount if they were unmarried; and married couples with children where the wife does not work and so forfeits her own earned income tax allowance.

In the last case, such a situation might just be defensible if it applied also in reverse, but it does not. If the man stays at home to look after the children, the working wife may claim her husband's tax allowance in full.

The only group to benefit from the present system comprises married couples where both partners work. The man receives an allowance fifty per cent higher than the single person's allowance, while his wife continues to receive her single person's allowance.

By rights, the present taxation arrangements ought to have set the entire social structure askew. Only traditional social pressure, so it seems, has prevented us from becoming a nation of cohabiting couples with large mortgages, married couples with

work but without children, and families where the man stays at home and his wife works, claiming both her own personal allowance and that of her husband.

To minimize these contradictions within the confines of the present system of taxation and take account of the fact that Britain now has one of the highest percentages of working wives in Europe, the Government has proposed to make the tax allowances on earned income equal as between married men and women and transferable between spouses. Under this system, outlined in a green paper published at the time of the Budget last March, a spouse without earned income could transfer his or her allowance to the other.

The proposed changes have attracted strong and single-minded criticism from women's groups and from the Equal Opportunities Commission. They argue that the transferable allowance would encourage husbands to put pressure on their wives to stay at home; that by removing some married women from the workforce, it would disguise the true level of unemployment; and that it would make it more difficult for a married woman to run her own financial affairs independently. In other words, they regard it as a setback for women's rights.

These groups advocate instead a system where men and women are treated as individual tax units regardless of their marital status. They would make each partner responsible for his or her own tax returns,

and compensate those who bear the financial burden of child-rearing (man or woman) by means of increased child allowances.

Such a system has a superficial appeal. It would free married women from the status of chattels to their husbands so far as their tax affairs were concerned — but at the cost of inflicting a financial penalty on the woman who prefers to raise children at home. Moreover, in an age when many couples choose not to marry, it would have the further appeal of making marital status irrelevant so far as the fiscal functions of the state were concerned. The question is whether marital status should necessarily be irrelevant.

The present arrangement whereby there are strong financial disincentives to marriage is clearly undesirable. However, that is no argument for neutralizing the tax system entirely. At a time when the virtues of fidelity are being expounded for sound medical and moral reasons which have implications for the health of succeeding generations, there is a compelling argument for giving financial incentives to those who choose the married estate. If the proposed changes also offer women (and men) a real choice, between working or staying at home to look after children — a choice which is determined by personal inclination rather than financial considerations — that is an additional benefit, and one which should not be cynically confused with mechanisms for reducing unemployment.

BLOODSHED IN KARACHI

Forty more people died and nearly 300 were injured in Karachi yesterday, raising the death toll to nearly 100 after 48 hours of ethnic rioting (Some say the total is much higher). As troops struggled to reimpose the rule of law upon embattled streets, appalling tales of cruelty and attrition reached the outside world. It is the second wave of inter-communal fighting within two months in Pakistan and has been described as the most serious since 1977 — when the end result was the overthrow of the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the establishment of military rule. Is Pakistan about to descend once more into an abyss?

On the face of it this seems unlikely. The present violence has erupted between Pathans and Mohajirs, two of the four main ethnic groupings in Pakistan's main commercial centre. There is a long history of violence between the Pathans and the Mohajirs — Muslims who flocked over the border from India following partition nearly 40 years ago. So the phenomenon is hardly unprecedented — although Karachi has never seen anything on quite this scale.

Nor is it entirely unexplained. The violence erupted after government forces swept down upon the Pathan suburb of Sohrab Goth in a round-up of drugs and arms rackets. Reports suggest that the Pathans then took revenge on their old enemy, in the belief that Mohajir sources had helped to instigate the raid.

But nothing in Pakistan is quite as simple as it sounds. As the fires burned yesterday and bodies were pulled from the rubble, opposition leaders were already attacking the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and his mentor President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq. Their most prominent opponent, Mr Benazir Bhutto, has tried to place the blame on General Zia — still chief of the army staff — for his failure to call fresh elections.

The logic of that seems escapable. But the riots are certainly bad news for Zia and Junejo at a time of uncertain relations with Delhi. Last month's inter-communal strife in Pakistan led to accusations of Indian involvement — with reports of the arrest of a number of Indian agents in the country. The latest trouble has

erupted when India's army is engaged on a series of exercises uncomfortably close to the Pakistan border and at a time when its generals are renowned to be feeling trigger happy. The reason for this is that Delhi suspects Pakistan of stirring up trouble in the Punjab and harbouring secessionist Sikhs.

It is already a year since the summit between Zia and India's Rajiv Gandhi, at which it was hoped they might lay the foundations for a more stable relationship. As many as 15 years have now passed since the Indo-Pakistan war which resulted in victory for Delhi and the establishment of an independent Bangladesh. Nonetheless, the governments still eye each other uneasily across the frontier.

Domestic divisions in both countries are among the obstacles which stand in the way of a more stable relationship. Thus a police raid can cause a riot which can become political which can lead to suspicions of foreign involvement. For this reason alone, the bloodshed in Karachi could have consequences far greater than were dreamed of by those who caused it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to take up with Taiwan

From Mr Leo Abse, MP for Telford (Labour)

Sir, Your editorial (December 6) acknowledges the considerable changes taking place in China and Taiwan. It does not explore the need, now that the future of Hong Kong has been decided, for a fresh reappraisal of our relationship with Taiwan.

Inhibited up to now by our concern for the colony, we have elaborately distanced ourselves from Taipei, allowing mainland China to decide our policy for us. Other European countries, although formally giving no recognition to Taiwan, have not been so squeamish or, having less to lose, so pusillanimous.

Now, as a rising young middle class merges into the increasingly prosperous and pluralist Taiwan society, the thrust for independence is expressed by most as a desire to be free of excessive dependence, in trade and political terms, upon the USA.

Other European countries, sensing Taipei's mood and keenly aware of the trade opportunities with this staggeringly successful island economy, are responding: we are not, and consequently we are throwing away both trade opportunities and the considerable diplomatic possibilities that our present continued dialogue with mainland China may afford.

It is time to bring to an end our absurd affection for Taiwan does not exist. Our rigid interpretations of the niceties of non-diplomatic recognition have caused deep hurt. Recently in Taipei the Prime Minister told me with bitterness how, before he became Prime Minister, as a banker visiting Britain he was denied access to the Governor of the Bank of England.

A catalogue of such unnecessary prickles was presented to me by Taiwan's Foreign Secretary, even as he was stressing his clearly genuine desire to build bridges with Britain and acknowledging Britain's special difficulties because of Hong Kong.

One helpful response from us could be made immediately. Our shadowy man in Taipei is retiring. The new man, looking after trade interests, should, like the representatives of other European countries, be of much higher status and have essential diplomatic experience.

It is to be hoped that any advice

being given to and received from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the new appointment will be governed by guidance from our Foreign Secretary.

Yours faithfully,
LEO ABSE (Secretary,
British Taiwan Parliamentary
Group),
House of Commons,
December 8.

From the Reverend Dr H. D. Beeby
Sir, Your Saturday editorial, "Two Chinas by default?" gave prominence to the changing situation in Taiwan and for this one is grateful. Unfortunately, it also gave prominence to that confused concept, "two Chinas".

Would the model for this be then "the two Germanies" or "the two Koreas" or "Old England and New England"? More problematic, and far more significant is which of the parties most concerned would be willing to accept it? Would Peking? Would the Nationalists? And, far more important, would the majority of the islanders, who think of themselves as Taiwanese, ever accept it?

For these 17 million out of a total of 20 million China is another country from which their ancestors came long, long ago. It is not their country. Their country is Taiwan, a highly developed, prosperous country, virtually cut off from China since 1949, when it became Japanese for 50 years.

Of course they have linguistic, racial and cultural links with China, but "so what?" Many Americans have linguistic, racial and cultural links with Europe, but we don't speak of "two Europes".

For the Taiwanese, to think of themselves as belonging to a second China because of their history is as unthinkable as suggesting that the Irish, who have historical, linguistic, racial and cultural links with the mainland, should opt for a "two Britains" policy. The Taiwanese have had enough of Asian colonialism of one form or another and long for the world to accept a policy of one China, one Taiwan.

Yours faithfully,
H. D. BEEBY,
C/o The Selly Oak Colleges,
Bristol Road South,
Birmingham,
West Midlands,
December 8.

Labour and defence

From Mr John Ambrose

Sir, A very recent party political broadcast on behalf of the Labour Party sought to persuade us of Neil Kinnock's view that defence money should be spent on surface ships at the expense of Trident.

But then Neil Kinnock, as reported by Robin Oakley on December 1, tells the Americans that a £60million ship can be wiped out by a £250,000 missile from an obsolescent aeroplane, and this is bad finance. Is there a higher than usual degree of inconsistency here?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN AMBROSE,
66 London Street,
Chertsey, Surrey,
December 8.

From Professor D. Lasok, QC

Sir, Labour's defence policy strikingly resembles that of an 18th century Polish Parliament. When faced with military ascendancy of the neighbours it voted a reduction of the Army to prove that, being the largest continental country, Poland was no threat to anyone and to give a good example to the others.

Food mountains

From the Secretary and Deputy

Chairman of the Agricultural and Food Research Council
Sir, The fourth article of your five-part series about agricultural surpluses ("Moving mountains" — November 24-28) mis-states the role of research. When increased UK agricultural production was the priority, research contributed to this, as did the initiative and vision of British farmers.

But the Agricultural and Food Research Council no longer gives priority to research geared simply to increasing production. Consistent levels of output are a current aim. The battle against pests and diseases does not end. The safety and quality of our food supply, protection of the environment, the improvement of animal welfare and the problems of taking land out of agricultural production, are also of current concern.

The wheat variety Rendezvous, chosen to illustrate your article, is valuable in its unique ability to resist the eyespot fungus by innate resistance without using external

fungicides and notable for the gene transfer which brought this about.

Agricultural over-production is not a consequence of research but of the economic framework within which the industry operates. The soils and climate of Britain are among the best in the world for food production. This source of economic strength requires research and development to be useful in changing economic circumstances.

Agricultural research includes not only the life sciences, but also chemistry, physics and engineering. It contributes an important part of the science base on which the agrochemical, agricultural engineering, food, and the newly emerging biotechnology industries depend for their future. It should continue to command support from Government and industry sources.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. JINKS,
Secretary and Deputy Chairman,
Agricultural and Food Research Council,
160 Great Portland Street, W1,
December 11.

Steel price stability

From the Chairman of the British

Steel Corporation

Sir, I would make a number of interrelated points in response to Mr James Campbell's letter (November 28), which in effect alleged that British Steel's much improved financial situation is achieved at the expense of consumers on the strength of steel's operating in a controlled market, which our customers do not.

First, whilst UK manufacturing prices generally and steel-using industries' prices specifically have risen broadly in line with inflation since the late seventies, BSC home prices have risen by about half that.

Secondly, whilst BSC prices have risen by around 20 per cent over these years, our material input costs have risen by more than twice that amount implying a severe price/cost squeeze. Moreover, the impact on our activity

levels of a heavy fall in UK steel consumption (25 per cent during the period) has greatly increased this.

The corporation's response to this acute challenge has been to carry out a restructuring programme on a scale and at a speed which I doubt many other industries have ever equalled. The social cost of this achieving international competitiveness has been very heavy.

The market support measures operated by the European Community authorities have been designed to buttress the restructuring effort of ECSC steel producers by restricting output from the excess capacity brought about as a result of the recession while it is being progressively eliminated.

The associated limited measures to achieve voluntary restraint of imports were introduced to prevent non-Community producers taking unreasonable

Central control in the Church

From the Reverend R. T. Beckwith
Sir, Whether the Bishop of Birmingham is really calling for the Archbishop of Canterbury to be given a universal jurisdiction like that of the Pope (Clifford Longley, December 8) I do not know. What is clear, however, is that this would be quite inadequate to meet the present situation in the Anglican Communion and its member churches.

The Anglican Communion and its churches have hitherto been held together by agreement: agreement on doctrine, agreement on morals, agreement on worship, and agreement on church order. If liberalism succeeded in dissolving this agreement, no wielding of a jurisdictional stick could keep Anglicans united.

The chief responsibility for maintaining this agreement rests with the bishops. Yet it is from a bishop that we have recently been hearing attacks on doctrines of the creeds, and it is bishops who have refused to maintain Christian morality in matters like the ordination of practising homosexuals.

As to agreement on worship, the clerical campaign for the abandonment of the Book of Common Prayer has almost destroyed it. And as to agreement on church order, the ordination of women as priests by four Anglican provinces and the declared intention to go on and ordain women bishops there (despite the inability of the other provinces even to accept women priests) bid fair to put the Anglican Communion out of communion with itself.

In this disintegrating situation, the Bishop of London is not promoting division but is standing for moderation and sanity. It is admitted that he has broken no rule, only a convention. He has indeed resisted the wishes of the episcopate on both sides of the Atlantic. But by doing this he has demonstrated two important truths.

First, that it is still possible to be both orthodox and Anglican. And secondly, that if the intolerance of liberalism drives loyal Anglicans out of the local Anglican church, it does not thereby drive them out of the Anglican Communion, since there still are Anglicans to whom they can look for support, and Anglican bishops ready to afford them pastoral care.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. BECKWITH, Warden,
Latimer House,
131 Banbury Road,
Oxford,
December 8.

From Mr Cosmo Russell

Sir, To a regular Anglican communicant over 60 years, 8 o'clock Sunday and 1662 version preferred, Dr Montefiore and Mr Longley evoke surprise. They will recognize that at the level of the sacraments — the only real level — there is no problem. Therein lies the authority needed: Jesus Christ.

On the other hand, to treat papal authority as theologically unsound (vide Mr Longley) will raise a laugh among Roman Catholics for whom papal authority, with occasional historical variations, has been a constant factor since St Peter.

If Dr Montefiore and Mr Longley would leave their fears of Anglican disintegration at episcopal level at the top and help instead to build the Church of England from the bottom — that is to say the altar rail at the Communion — they will find a sure foundation.

Yours faithfully,
COSMO RUSSELL,
as from Parapet House,
Lenham, Kent,
December 8.

Love of justice

From the Reverend Leo Maidlow

Sir, Dilexi iustitiam et odi iniquitatem, propterea morior in exilio. These words of Pope Gregory VII, which Peter Wright has applied to his own condition (Spectrum, December 8), are themselves a bitter reworking of Psalm 44.7. When properly translated Pope Gregory's words read, "I have loved justice and hated iniquity, therefore I die in exile".

This desperate assertion affords us a deeper and a sadder insight into Peter Wright's state of mind than would the mere observation that he is living in exile.

Yours faithfully,
LEO MAIDLOW-DAVIS,
Downside Abbey,
Stratton on the Fosse,
Bath, Avon,
December 8.

advantage of the restrictions under which ECSC producers are operating. Nevertheless, steel imports are currently supplying about one third of the UK market.

This scene is far from that depicted by your correspondent. Community steel producers anticipate a continuing price/cost squeeze. British Steel is a business embracing a wide range of very varied product markets with a total turnover in excess of £3 billion; it is not a uniform bureaucracy. Accordingly there are certainly specific product sectors where prices have been experiencing especially severe pressure and where some increases from present levels are likely. But overall BSC is indeed looking for price stability in the period ahead.

Yours faithfully,
R. SCHOLEY, Chairman,
British Steel Corporation,
9 Albert Embankment, SE1,
December 4.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 16 1886

Dr David Livingstone (1813-1873) had returned only four days previously from explorations which necessitated the redrawing of the map of Central Africa. Only scraps of news filtered back.

Livingstone opened his address to the Royal Geographical Society, which presented him with its gold medal for his discoveries, by excusing any imperfections in his language on the ground that he had spoken very little English for the past 16 years. The final e in his name was added later in his life.

DR LIVINGSTONE'S AFRICAN DISCOVERIES.

The PRESIDENT (Sir Roderick Murchison), in opening the proceedings, said they were met to welcome Dr Livingstone on his return from South Africa to his native country after an absence of 18 years, during which, while endeavouring to spread the blessings of Christianity through lands never before trodden by the foot of a British subject, he had made geographical discoveries of invaluable importance, which had justly won for him the Victoria or Patron's gold medal of that society. (Cheers.) When that honour was conferred in May, 1868, for traversing South Africa from the Cape of Good Hope by the Lake Ngami to Linyanti, and thence to the west coast in 10 S.E., Lord Ellesmere, their then president, spoke of the scientific precision with which the learned and intrepid explorer and missionary had left his mark on so many important stations of regions hitherto blank. (Hear, hear.) If for that wonderful journey Dr Livingstone was justly recompensed with the highest distinction their society could bestow, what must now be their estimate of his prowess when they knew that he had retraversed the vast regions which he first opened out to their knowledge; nay, more, that after reaching his old starting point at Linyanti, in the interior, he had followed the Zambezi, or continuation of the Linyanti river, to its mouth on the shores of the Indian Ocean, passing through the Eastern Portuguese settlement of Tete, and thus completing the entire journey across South Africa? In short, it had been calculated that putting together all his various journeys, Dr Livingstone had not travelled over less than 11,000 miles of African territory.

Dr LIVINGSTONE then received with much cheering. He said: As a Christian missionary I only did my duty in attempting to open up part of southern inter-tropical Africa to the sympathy of Christendom, and I am very much gratified by finding in the interest which you and many others express a pledge that the true negro family, whose country I traversed, will yet become a part of the general community of nations. (Cheers.) The English people and Government have done more for Central Africa than any other in the way of suppressing that traffic which proves a blight to both commerce and friendly intercourse. (Cheers.) May I hope that the path which I have lately opened into the interior will never be shut, and that, in addition to repression of the slave trade, there will be fresh efforts made for the development of the interior resources of the country. (Hear, hear.)

Dr LIVINGSTONE then said: Upon the President said that... the natives belonged to the true negro family, having a good deal of very woolly hair, and being darker than the Bechuana. They held their women in high estimation and many of them became chiefs. If a man were asked to go anywhere or to agree to any arrangement he said, "I must go home and ask my wife." If he said, "No," there was no possibility of getting him to move. Women set in their councils, and while a Bechuana swore by his father these negroes swore by their mother... The country in most parts abounded with elephants, buffaloes, zebras, giraffes, and other game, and he had shot three new species not yet known in England. He had found it unnecessary to burden himself with provisions in travelling, for the animals did not seem to know a gun, and would stand within bow shot of his weapon. In the interior the people were very kind to him, but he could not say they improved as he approached the confines of civilization...

One for the pot

From Dr Martyn H. Butterworth
Sir, I was pleased to read that help is at hand for the iguana (feature, December 8). Whilst travelling in Latin America I have eaten and enjoyed iguana and their eggs, alligator tail, capybara, tortoise and rattlesnake. Yours faithfully, MARTYN H. BUTTERWORTH, (Consultant in Tropical Animal Production) 2 Curzon Place, Lynton, Devon, December 8.

Saying it in style

From the Reverend Canon F. G. Kerr-Dineen
Sir, What is wrong with the old form of address: "Dear Sir or Madam"? I have just had "Dear British Gas Customer", and this morning, from a worthy charity, "Dear Sir or Madam". You will know, Sir, that I am old, and therefore old-fashioned, but I am cheered by the fact that the DHSS in paying my pension always writes: "Dear Sir or Madam". Yours truly, F. G. KERR-DINEEN, The Rectory, Stopham, Nr Pulborough, Sussex, December 1.

Edited by Matthew May

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

A Worm moves in with records



Herefordshire Police pioneered the storing of colour photographic images of convicted criminals by optical disk technology

By Geoff Wheelwright

There is a WORM in the Government's Public Record Office - and it isn't the type that likes to read books. In this case, the WORM is a "Write Once Read Many" optical computer storage device helping the Public Record Office to move its record-keeping systems into the 20th century. The system was introduced to the PRO this month as computer manufacturer Data General - which supplied the system - announced its contract with the Government to run a pilot project to assess the suitability of storing computer records on optical disk.

The government department which, in addition to general public record-keeping, is charged with keeping every thing from modern cabinet documents to historic tomes such as the Magna Carta, has ordered a system capable of storing the equivalent of 250,000 typed A4 pages - 1 Gigabyte - to be exact.

The installation of this optical disk unit should enable the PRO to collect around 2,000 magnetic data tapes from various government departments to put on the system.

Optical storage is particularly attractive because of its high capacity and claimed greater longevity.

Data General, for example, suggest that optical disks in large systems have a life of about 10 years. This claim, however, cannot be fully

tested until optical systems have been in use as long as traditional storage media. An optical disk system works on much the same principles as the current crop of Compact Disc (CD) music systems - except that CDs can only play back information from the compact disc, and offer no way of recording.

The information, in this case music, on a Compact Disc is transformed into music when a tiny, pin-hole laser beam is shone over the surface of the CD as it spins around inside the player.

The surface of the CD is pitted with tiny indentations - each of which represents a small piece of encoded music - and the way in which the laser beam is reflected off this pitted surface tells the player what sounds to transfer to the amplifier and speakers.

On an optical disk system, users need to be able to not only read information in this manner - but also place new information on the optical disk.

Each time information is written onto the disc, an area is physically burned and once made there is no way of removing it - hence the name Write Once Read Many.

Control Data has been moving to try and establish some standards in the WORM market, and a few weeks ago announced equipment that would allow a WORM system to be connected to IBM's personal computer.

Health groups in data watch

Local and health authorities are to be among the first groups to come under the scrutiny of the Data Protection Registrar, Eric Howe, as he begins to chase first any large data users who have not registered.

"I have some sympathy for very small data users", said Mr Howe, who may not have access to the professional advice that larger organizations enjoy. Finance houses and direct marketing are the other two areas for the first investigation. From November 1987, individuals will have the right to have a copy of any personal information about them held on computer. So far, the Registrar's Office has received 160 complaints from individuals.

In the holiday spirit

The holiday spirit was much in evidence at Lotus Development last week after a Florida contractor withdrew a \$254,000 product liability lawsuit against Lotus, ending a year-long dispute over whether software companies are responsible for errors made by people using their programs. The contractor, James Cummings,

contended that Lotus's Symphony business program had failed miserably to incorporate a \$254,000 entry for general expenses into a construction bid.

Mr Cummings won the bid but lost money on the deal. Lotus countered that it was not responsible for what it said was an inexperienced user's error that could have been avoided by reading the instruction manual. "We intended to fight this all the way and never settle," said Henry Gutman of the law firm that represented Lotus.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

The instruction manual. "We intended to fight this all the way and never settle," said Henry Gutman of the law firm that represented Lotus.

Computerized filofax

While so-called "personal organizers" have been available on computer for some time - providing an on-screen address book, diary, or note-taker - this year has seen the advent of the computerized "filofax" type.

With an eye clearly on upmarket Christmas presents, there is one now available for PC owners for the relatively modest price of £100. Like computerized organizers it provides all the on-

screen options, but with the option of printing it all out on special sheets to put in a leather binder, also provided. It includes word-processing facilities, a "self-sorting" address book and mail merge, so that addresses can be automatically used for mailshots. Further information on 01-922 8821.

Terms for Superbrain

US officials have agreed draft terms to sell India their latest American super computer, after talks on security safeguards. The United States has been insisting on assurances that the computer will only be used for weather and agricultural purposes.

The talks last week followed an announcement by the US State Department in October that Washington had tentatively approved the sale, one of the first offers of high technology to a country outside Western Europe.

The multi-million dollar Cray computer, with a 32-megabyte memory, said to be one of the fastest in the world, but the United States demanded strong safeguards to prevent the transfer of such high technology to the super computers to the Eastern block. The two sides still have to negotiate the specific model and

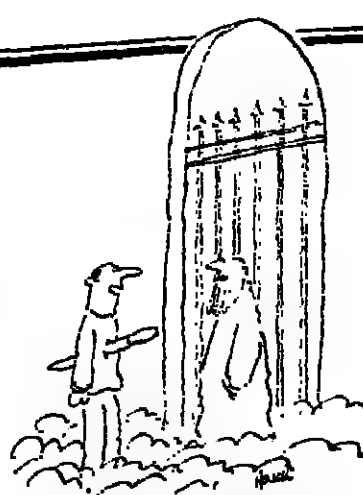
commercial terms before delivery, for which no date has been set, the sources said.

£50m fibre network

British Telecom has begun installing a £50 million optical fibre network to link major business subscribers to local telephone exchanges in the City of London. The first of its kind, it will enable customers to send all their digital communication services - voice, data, telex, fax, video and private channels - through a single glass fibre pipeline. More than 80,000 km of optical fibre will be installed in the next 12 months - almost enough to go round the world twice. The programme will extend the use of optical fibre in the local telephone network to the rest of the country over the next decade.

Reviving Bach

Researchers at the University of Illinois have built a computer capable of being programmed to compose music in the style of Johann Sebastian Bach. Creators David Sirkis and Larry Rendell claim their machine can be fed any tune and come up with the harmonies Bach would have composed around it, repeats with variations.



"I designed a brilliant computer system - which made 500 of them redundant"

Mr Sirkis said: "The great thing about bringing Bach back to life is you can ask him to harmonize a melody written long after his death. The computer is an exercise in artificial intelligence, finding out what a machine can learn, said Mr Rendell. What you'd like to do is create a computer program that can learn anything, from music to medicine, to games. That's the real goal: machine learning, artificial intelligence. But the composer-computer is not about to start writing Bach originals. The researchers said it was highly unlikely that any computer could ever approach composer's genius.

Fast change forces IT courses to take a commercial break

EDUCATION

By Frank Brown

As a result of the long-standing shortage of people with information technology skills, the winds of change are starting to blow through IT education and training.

The high cost of providing IT courses, coupled with the need to keep up with the rapid pace of technological developments, have forced universities and technical colleges to be much more commercially-minded.

Most in the field are now actively having to seek collaborative ventures with commerce and industry in IT, either to obtain sponsorship for courses, or to undertake joint development projects.

Next year will see a further evolutionary step in university and industry collaboration when the IT Institute, the first industry-funded higher educational establishment for training and research in IT, opens its doors in Milton Keynes.

The establishment, which advocates a close relationship between universities and colleges of the future, is being set up by

Cranfield Institute of Technology, in collaboration with some 30 British and American firms, which have collectively invested more than £3 million in the new venture.

They include major IT users such as British Gas, British Aerospace and British Petroleum, as well as major IT suppliers such as IBM, DEC, British Telecom, Hewlett-Packard, Immos, Intel and Rank Xerox.

The new establishment will be run as a self-supporting commercial company rather than on normal academic lines. It has a chief executive, instead of a vice-chancellor, and a supervisory board upon which many of the sponsor companies are represented.

That board will have direct control of the Institute's activities, to ensure that courses and research are geared to industry's requirements, and

based on the world's latest IT resources.

"This user-oriented approach to IT education is essential if the long-standing shortage of people with IT skills is to be overcome", commented Dr Allan Fox, the Institute's chief executive.

"IT education and training in the UK has generally concentrated on the requirements of IT suppliers. The skills that are in short supply, however, are not so much those for designing computers, but for applying computing techniques to applications which users want to computerize."

"The dearth of people with IT skills will never be overcome by teaching people computer technology. They must also learn how to apply it, how to computerize business, industrial and scientific processes - cost-effectively."

"In other words, they must learn how to analyse and interpret intended applications in computing terms, so that every application process or procedure is computerized in the most appropriate way in

form a truly synergistic system."

Graduate and post-graduate courses will be offered. Teaching activities are expected to grow over a five-year period to some 200 post-graduate programmes and more than 4,000 short course places for personnel in industry, commerce and government.

Research activities will cover high growth-application areas such as networking, microelectronics, software engineering, and artificial intelligence, and will be carried out on a joint venture basis with sponsoring companies and international research institutions.

Dr Fox believes the commercial structure, financial independence and international character of the IT Institute will enable it to keep up with the latest developments in IT worldwide.

"Modern high-tech education is highly capital-intensive. Our financial independence will enable us to have the latest equipment

INFORMATION SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

SALADIN COMPUTER SYSTEMS develops information and decision support systems for the international petroleum industry and in particular for oil trading operations. With the continuing structural changes in the petroleum sector, SALADIN's operations are expanding rapidly and a number of exceptional people are needed for European and Middle East activities:

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Write with C.V. to: The Managing Director
Saladin Computer Systems Ltd.,
C/O Box C68, The Times

Events

Micro in Design, Design Centre, Haymarket, London SW1, until December 19, (01-839 8000)

High Technology in Education, Barbican, London, January 21-24, (01-608 1181)

Videotex User Show, Barbican, London, January 28-30, (01-608 1181)

Despe Europe, Olympia 2, London, March 3-5, (01-486 1851)

Computers in Retailing, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, March 11-13

Cadcam 87, Metropole Hotel, NEC, Birmingham, March 24-26, (01-608 1181)

Power PCs take over

The announcement by Microsoft of the latest version of its operating system, MS-DOS 4.0, in September has managed to steer clear of the one question that many serious PC users should be asking themselves - what is going to happen in the future.

The Intel range of chips used to power these computers carry with them a fundamental discontinuity in the nice, orderly linear progression of an upgrade path that most computer users yearn for.

The PC family started out being powered by the 8086/8088 family of processors, and one or other of these could be found at the heart of

every compatible system as well.

With such a market, it was obvious that the software industry would follow this trend, and both Microsoft, with MS-DOS, and the many producers of applications software, have grown fat on the strength of it.

SOFTWARE

By Martin Banks

With the arrival of the PC/AT however, things have started to change. The AT uses the Intel 80286 processor; better, faster and with some interesting facilities. Most significant among these is the ability to run in what is called the Protected mode, which allows the processor to sectionalize the computer's memory.

About a year ago, Intel announced the development of the next member of its processor family, the 80386 - faster and more powerful than the 80286, and makes the PCs and XT's look positive slugs.

In addition, it also incorporates an enhanced version of the Protected mode. This gives it the ability to have several applications running in their own "virtual computer" on one machine.

The ability to have different applications on the same machine also has its attractions. These things are possible on PCs now, but it is arguable that none of them are done particularly well. Using MS-DOS, multi-tasking is only just starting to be a practical possibility.

Even the latest version, 4.0, cannot work with the Protected mode of the newer Intel processors represents a considerable waste of computing resources.

If MS-DOS cannot take advantage of this, however, it also means that the applications packages users have all grown to know and love cannot make use of it either. Users, therefore, are likely to be facing a problem over the coming couple of years.

They will have applications and, more importantly, valuable data, that runs in an operating environment that is increasingly obsolete.

To make any real use of the power of even the existing 80286 processor means a change of operating system that can work with the Protected mode and larger memory space, a change that Microsoft is expected to introduce with the next major revision of MS-DOS, Version 5.

To gain any advantage from this new system, the users will need to invest in new versions of their applications packages, many of which are now being remodelled to fit the new environment.

For many users, the upgrade will be most welcome for the limitations of MS-DOS are now being reached. The basic operating system has the increasingly irritating limit of 640K bytes of memory, and a growing number of current applications programs demand that a system has this maximum available in order to work.

The appearance of MS-DOS Version 5 should impose some standardization on working with larger memory capacities, as well as multi-tasking and multi-user working. This in turn should give software developers, and therefore users, a clearer path for future developments.

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OUTSTANDING POSITIONS IN BANKING, SALES AND SOFTWARE

PROJECT MANAGERS/CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL

MONEY BROKERS

October 27th 1986, signalled the most radical changes the City of London has ever witnessed. Already it is realised that systems are going to need continual development well into 1987 and beyond. To cater for this work, several Project Managers, Consultants and Business Analysts are desperately required by a number of International Merchant Banks. They will probably provide the most important function to both non technical, but demanding users and to pure IT "technicians". Ideal candidates will be well educated, possess excellent communications skills, both written and oral, and be able to liaise with very senior managers. A blend of technical and applications knowledge is a pre-requisite, as the "doming" of two hats will be part and parcel of the work. Most sought after application areas are: SECURITIES, GIFTS & EQUITIES, EURO BONDS, FOREX, MONEY MARKETS and PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT. Such experience is hard to find and thus remuneration will be excellent with basic salaries totally open ended and carry superb perks such as cars, mortgage subsidies, bonuses and profit share. REF: TK 14761

ICL ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS

CITY OF LONDON

Following recent developments, this Money Broking subsidiary of an internationally renowned Holding company are currently seeking several specialists in the ICL field. To embark on some of the most varied and exciting projects developing in the Money Markets today. Applicants will be involved from initial conception through to final implementation in applications areas, which include Brokerage Transactions covering GIFTS, FOREX and SECURITIES. In order to apply for these highly demanding posts, you should have at least 2 years' City experience in either ICL ME29 or TANDM with DOS, TPMS, DMSO and TAL, being a distinct advantage. The selected individuals will enjoy varied opportunities, an excellent salary and real career progression. REF: TT 14596

ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS

CITY OF LONDON

Due to continued expansion, this company, who are the largest Property development concern in the UK, require young ICL professionals to utilise their analytical and development skills in a wide variety of commercial applications including Travel/Letters related areas. You need at least 1 years' Cobol programming experience on ICL VME in order to qualify. Personality and aptitude are also of the utmost importance. This company are now part of one of the largest internationally renowned Tour Operators, so can offer the successful candidates full concessionary rates on worldwide travel, as well as a good salary, profit bonus, free lunches and long term career development opportunities. REF: TP 14960

PROGRAMMERS TO PROJECT MANAGERS (U.K. SUPPORT)

CITY

To cater for the increased demands placed on the National Support team, additional IT skills are required by the leading computer manufacturer. A wide range of skills are required from 18 months programming/support experience, to many years' D.P. experience in the support of financial applications. Working out of the luxury city offices, the appointees will initially receive concentrated training and tuition on various topics such as: pre and post sales support, and structured design. Programmers will be involved with the development of specific software to meet the requirements of many of the major banks whilst the Systems Analysts, Project Leaders/Managers will be responsible for ascertaining these requirements and also for following these through from design to implementation. All support work will involve travelling to the clients site, this may include occasional overseas travel. A background in International finance (Banking/Insurance/Accounts/Stockbroking etc) will be a distinct advantage, particularly at the more senior end. The work is guaranteed to be varied and interesting with a very flexible and self determined career path. Company cars are given at most levels of support position whilst other benefits benefit those of a large international concern. Salary is totally open to negotiation. REF: TP 15457

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MARKET DATA ANALYST

VOICE COMMS ANALYST

A top global investment bank wishes to fill two positions within its Communications Services department. The Market Data Services Analyst will be responsible for the successful performance of systems such as Reuters, Rich, Telerate etc. This will include ensuring standards are adhered to a full awareness of system enhancements and new products and provision of users' requirements. The Voice Communications Analyst will ideally have an excellent knowledge of investment banking PBX, dealer board systems and the "Hoc" in "Hoc" open trading network. However candidates lacking this depth of experience but from an Information Services Provider will also be genuinely considered. Both of these positions require excellent presentation and communication skills and a degree education, though not essential, would be an advantage. REF: TG 15133

SALES

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EXECUTIVE CAR

As one of the major IBM recommended dealers specialising in networking and total business solutions, this Company's reputation is now generating substantial repeat and referral business. Consequently they are recruiting successful sales executives to join their established team. The ideal applicants will be ambitiously building on their existing experience in networked micro-based hardware and will be capable of quickly generating a high level of new business. Their client companies are impressive and include many national names. The high achievers earn in excess of £70,000 per annum, with an unusually high ratio of sales to support, this approach enables the sales team to concentrate on the commercial issues. Demonstration and technical implementation, including bespoke, are the responsibility of the relevant support personnel. This is a superb opportunity to join an established company who have gained nationwide credibility in the total solutions sales arena. Excellent company benefits include high earnings incentives and choice of executive car. REF: TP 14460

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BANKING/FINANCE

CITY

EARNINGS UP TO £60,000

£30,000 GUAR.

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Public attack on private sector failings

Computer manufacturers and the science and technology industry have come in for a quick flurry of government criticism over the last week.

The Prime Minister chided the private sector over its record on investment in research and development while a report by the Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA) expressed disappointment with some computer manufacturers over slowness in getting their products to work together via common standards.

Also published was the annual review of government-funded research and development, which says that private industry provided little more than a third of the £6.6 billion spent on R & D in 1986.

The Government paid for nearly 50 per cent; half of it spent on development work for the Ministry of Defence.

John Fairclough, chief scientific adviser to the Government and on secondment from IBM, presented the report and reiterated that the private sector was not spending enough on R & D.

Compromise due for discussion next week

His staff was looking into whether companies should be made to reveal how much they were spending on R & D.

Mrs Thatcher's comments came

THE WEEK

By Matthew May

In a Commons written reply last week giving the details behind a scheme called Link, it will provide up to £210 million of government money over the next five years to try to speed up work on selected university research projects in science and technology, but only if industry will cover at least half the costs.

She said: "The private sector is not investing as much of its own resources in R and D in this country as our most successful competitors."

An attempt to turn the tables on the criticism contained in countries

reports on science and technology and made by industry, which argue that government funding is too low for exactly the same reason - it falls well below that of many other advanced countries.

Last week Britain - along with West Germany, France and the Netherlands - was arguing for big cuts in a proposal for a £5.5 billion

Fresh spending is vital

high-technology research budget for the EEC over the next five years.

The other eight EEC members back the European Commission's view that such spending is vital if Europe is to stand any chance of

closing the technology gap with the US and Japan.

There was no agreement and a suggested compromise, which involves a budget of £2.6 billion for the next three years, is due to be discussed next Monday.

For the information-technology industry in particular, the CCTA report had at least some kind words. It gives the results on the progress made by 14 leading suppliers of IT in implementing OSI - open systems interconnection - standards.

The CCTA, which looks after the use and purchase of IT within government, was encouraged by a generally "positive approach", but pointed out that most suppliers were running late in certain areas and unlikely to meet some of the CCTA targets.

EDI challenge to small firms

By Richard Sarson

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) has grown quickly in the past three months. EDI is the jargon term for replacing paper orders, invoices and other transactions between companies by electronic messages. This will eventually, so the argument goes, save firms' time, errors and the cost of rekeying data when ordering or paying for goods.

Since September Istel's orders for Edict - an EDI value-added network - have jumped from 100 to over 160, while ICL's offering, Tradanet, has seen the same pattern.

Launched in April, 1985, a month or two before Edict, Tradanet hit 150 orders in September, but has now gone above 200, with another 150 committed.

Until last year, only 5 per cent of inter-company transactions were electronic, mostly using magnetic tape as a medium, as in BACS - the Bankers' Automated Clearing System.

The stumbling block has been the usual diversity of incompatible machines, communications protocols and differing types and vocabularies of invoices and orders.

While standards are slowly being established, someone has to convert them to usable products. Perhaps surprisingly, those in the forefront are not the biggest companies.

The leaders in Britain are Geisco, ICL and Istel. McDonnell Douglas is a leader in America but Edinet, its British collaboration with British Telecom, has just been axed because of a lack of orders. IBM is only now making a belated appearance.

Istel, the spin-off computer department of Austin-Rover, not surprisingly has 25 per cent of its business in the motor-trade, but is diversifying into general manufacturing, distribution, health and travel.

Geisco, with its Motornet, is also going for the motor trade while Tradanet is currently

concentrating on the food, pharmaceutical, white goods, DIY and electrical supply industries.

A group of exporters and shippers are doing a pilot project, Dish, using Tradanet for shipping documentation. EDI is not only for the big traders like Marks & Spencer, or Sainsbury, Istel says that 45 of its licences are with micros.

One factor that drives the sudden growth in customers is that the customers themselves are the best salesmen.

David Flanders, commercial manager of Norweb, has persuaded 13 of the 15 other regional electricity boards to join him in using Tradanet.

He has also told his major white goods suppliers that if they want to continue doing business they better get connected up as well.

Trans-border move problems

But internationally, EDI runs up against legal restrictions on passing some types of data across borders from certain countries, particularly those, like Germany and to a lesser extent France, where deregulation of the PTTs has not progressed very far.

Some multinationals are very active in EDI, ICI in particular. Colin Clark, the leader of ICI's team was much influenced by ICI American experience with the American chemical industry's data exchange project, and has just persuaded the Council of European Chemical Manufacturers to set up a similar project.

GEISCO believes that 85 per cent of trade transactions are at a national level at the moment, and it is important to get that right first.

So far Britain is ahead of the rest of Europe, both in setting the standards and marketing the value-added networks whether it can retain a lead remains to be seen.

400 jobs go after Burroughs merger

More than 400 jobs are to be lost in Cumbernauld, central Scotland, with the closure of an American-owned computer plant.

In the latest of a series of jobs blows to the area, the former Burroughs computer plant, established in the new town since 1958, is to be shut down.

The announcement follows the merger in September of Burroughs and Sperry to form a new company, Unisys. Burroughs had already shed 350 jobs at Cumbernauld.

After the merger, the new company announced it would cut its world-wide workforce by 8 per cent. The company said the Cumbernauld closure was the result of a "comprehensive worldwide restructuring" though its other Scottish plant, at Livingston, near Edinburgh, is unaffected.

Of the jobs lost at Cumbernauld, 360 will be employees engaged mainly in design and development, and 50 logistical staff.

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkind, said he "deeply regretted" the company's decision and said his officials had been in contact with the company for two years to try to safeguard the Cumbernauld operation.

"Two offers of regional assistance were made to the company in the spring of 1985 and as recently as November this year in an attempt to secure the existing jobs," he said.

"Unfortunately, as a result of merger activities between Burroughs and Sperry, corporate management of the new company was not in a position to accept these offers."

The brain drain goes into reverse gear

By Pat Sweet

Next month will see the start of a transatlantic technology transfer with a difference - a sort of small reverse brain drain.

A group of American computer programmers is coming over to take up jobs in Britain from a country widely regarded as having one of the most-skilled computing workforces anywhere in the world and also for paying higher salaries than in the UK. The US programmers will be working with companies that need expertise in fourth-generation languages and relational databases.

This summer Michael Doran of City Recruitment Consultants was asked by a client to find staff with experience of a particular database. He said: "The software had been available in Britain only since last year and at that time there were only 10 sites, so there was great pressure on people who knew something about it. However in America the package had been around for 10 years and there were several hundred users."

So in an effort to increase the pool of potential programmers, Mr Doran advertised in the *New York Sunday Times* and the *Washington Sunday Post*. He also



"If you ask me, they're overpaid, overqualified and over here."

appealed for programmers with other relational databases and fourth-generation language experience on products such as IDMS and Adabas Natural.

The surprising result was more than 100 replies within a fortnight, from applicants whose background ranged from work on the Space Shuttle programme to

commercial banking systems. Mr Doran interviewed 35 candidates and made job offers to 30, of whom only two were British programmers wanting to return home after a stint abroad.

The remainder were Americans keen to work in the UK, although Mr Doran was careful to emphasize first, that despite any similarities in the language, it was a different country, and second that they would not be offered as much money as they were used to.

He added: "It was necessary to explain that though the standard of living could be similar, the way of living would be quite different. The average senior programmer in the UK, for instance, earns about £15,000 a year while the same person in the US would easily get between £25,000 and £30,000."

"I was also wary of people who had never been outside America, but there was one applicant who said he planned to go either to Europe or to Chicago, and I realized that to someone from Washington, in fact, Chicago would be like a foreign country."

But the attractions of living in England seemed to have overcome any worries about a drop in salary; the first of the 30 programmers will be com-

ing over in the New Year.

Mr Doran said: "All the 28 Americans are to a greater or lesser extent Anglophiles. They range from someone from Russia who had become a US citizen, didn't like it all that much and wanted to get back to Europe, to people who'd been in England as students or on holiday and liked it."

Mr Doran believes the cultural and financial shock to US programmers is likely to be bigger than any change in working practices.

He found the standards of US-trained programmers to be good. Despite the success of the venture, it is not likely to herald a large brain drain, crossing the Atlantic from the other side this time. The lower

High cost of imported staff

UK salaries, although compensated for by the different lifestyle, remain a problem.

And the cost of bringing over US programmers is quite high - Mr Doran estimated about £1,000 in legal fees for each applicant, plus associated costs for flying over new staff and putting them up in hotels while they found accommodation.

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Secrets of today's top DP managers

For those who see the racing car as a triumph of man's engineering skills, to be dived over with pride and affection, skilled drivers and top mechanics are looked up to for their ability to understand car and engines.

It seems these days that a similar ability to know and believe in what a computer system is telling you is one of the most sought-after skills in the computer industry. It is one pointer to a good career as a data processing manager.

Alan Newman, managing director of High Wycombe-based Daton Recruitment, says: "One of the most difficult attributes to identify among senior data processing and MIS (management information systems) management, is people who can believe absolutely in what their system is telling them."

Such ability is more in demand as wider use is made of business requirements planning systems, in which every

experience is obviously important and that means good man management. Background qualifications can help, but it is recognized that we don't train for management skills much in Britain.

Mr Newman says: "Many areas of activity are starting to produce good DP management. Manufacturing in particular, as well as the retail and food industries, seem to be producing a lot of good people. These people appear to have started off as users of MIS and have decided to move in that direction. They gain a few years' DP experience, then suddenly emerge as management potential."

"Another area can be those who move from DP operations management, provided they have a good systems understanding."

The average national basic salary for a DP manager is £17,500, although that is before bonuses, overtime and perks.

Yet that does not seem a reflection on what can be earned. DP managers seem to have fared badly in recent salary rises. Even the average of £29,000 a year in the City seems low in comparison to other senior management jobs.

But for the DPM who has the skill to believe in his system - and convince corporate management of the fact - salaries could be higher.

Beyond DPM, is a bigger organization, Mr Miller reckons that as a director of MIS or systems director, you can reach £50,000 pa.

And there is no reason good DPMs should not achieve £35,000 in the South-East and £25,000 to 30,000 in the North.

"Part of the trick," emphasizes Mr Newman, "is knowing what is available to apply in the DP and MIS environment. That means staying abreast of developments."

This attitude can be developed early in a career, for it will often take at least 10 years in the DP environment to make it to manager of a medium-size installation. To manage a small installation, say an IBM System 36 or System 38, about five years' experience can be enough.

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He found the standards of US-trained programmers to be good. Despite the success of the venture, it is not likely to herald a large brain drain, crossing the Atlantic from the other side this time. The lower

UK salaries, although compensated for by the different lifestyle, remain a problem.

And the cost of bringing over US programmers is quite high - Mr Doran estimated about £1,000 in legal fees for each applicant, plus associated costs for flying over new staff and putting them up in hotels while they found accommodation.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this evening attended a Reception for "The Percent Club" given by the Prime Minister at No 10 Downing Street.

Sir John Riddell, Bt and the Hon Rupert Fairfax were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, President, Dr Barnardo's, this evening attended a Carol Service in the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, WC2.

Mrs Max Pike and Lieutenant-Commander Richard Aylard, RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as President of The Girl Guides' Association, presented brooches to Queen's Guides at Kensington Palace this afternoon.

Lady Juliet Townsend was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 15: The Duke of Gloucester this morning presented the 1986 Award to the Girl Technician Engineer of the Year at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, WC2.

Appointments

Mr Bernard Rix, QC, (pictured above), to be Director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Rev Gilbert Hopley to be Headmaster of St Paul's Cathedral Choir School from next September, in succession to Mr Derek Sutton, who retires at the end of the summer term.

Mr George Craig to be Principal Establishment Officer of the Welsh Office, with the rank of Under Secretary. He succeeds Mr John Lloyd, who transfers as Under Secretary to head the housing, health and social services policy group of the Welsh Office.

Professor David Grahame-Smith, of Oxford University, to be honorary consultant to the Army in pharmacology from March in succession to Professor J.B.E. Baker, who is retiring.

In the evening His Royal Highness was present at a Pre-Christmas Drinks Party given by Bulldog Manpower Services Limited at Great Peter Street, London, SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 15: Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a Reception held for the Mount Everest North-East Ridge 1987 Expedition at 22, South Audley Street, London, W1.

Princess Anne will visit Western Australia in February for the closing stages of the America's Cup.

Princess Anne will visit the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Jordan from February 10 to 21.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will pay a three-day official visit to Portugal in February.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit the Federal Republic of Germany in October 1987.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Gordon Richards will be held at St Margaret's, Westminster, at noon today.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr R.N.M. Armitage will be held at St Giles in the Fields at noon today.

Dinners

English-Speaking Union
Sir Oliver Wright gave the 1986 Churchill Lecture at Guildhall yesterday. Sir Donald Tebbitt, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, presided and Mr Alan Lee Williams, director-general, also spoke. At a dinner given afterwards by Sir Donald Tebbitt and Sir Alistair Frame on board HMS Belfast, Sir Oliver was the guest of honour. Among those present were: Lady Wright, Lady Frame, Lady Tebbitt, Sir Philip and Mrs Lady Adams, Mr David Graham, Mr Robert J. Kervin, Mrs Dore Newman, Mr and Mrs Alan Lee Williams and Mr Nicholas Wright.

National Sporting Club
The National Sporting Club held a boxing dinner at Grosvenor House yesterday. Mr George Graham was the guest of honour. Mr Jarvis Astaire was in the chair and the other speakers were Mr Joe Dimond and Mr Kenneth Holmes, secretary of the club.

Harrow School

Winter Term at Harrow School ended on Saturday. The chemistry schools were opened by Professor R.O.C. Norman on Tuesday, November 18. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended Churchill Songs on November 24. The Cook House Match was won by The Head Master's (J.D.V. Vargas) who beat West Acre (D.J. Parry). The Torpid Final was won by Bradbury (A.W.D. Sankley) who beat The Park (J.G.K. Ingram). Next term begins on Monday, January 12.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 87; Mr N. C. Blaney, 72; Mr F. R. Brown, 75; Sir Michael Carlisle, 57; Mr Arthur C. Clarke, 69; Judge Myrella Cohen, QC, 59; the Hon Peter Dickinson, 59; Sir Jasper Holman, 69; Lord Margdale, 80; Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, 86; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hubert Patch, 82; Sir Victor Pritchett, 86; Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 64; Sir John Thompson, 79; Miss Jacqueline Thwaites, 55; Miss Liv Ullmann, 48; Dr Jan van Loenen, 85; Mr W. H. P. Whitley, 64.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Michael Moore was christened Richard Paul Ian by the Rev Neville Thomas in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Friday, December 12. The godparents are Mr Peter Adorian, Mr Donald Calder, Lady Holland-Martin and Mrs Anthony Fear.

Reception

Prime Minister
The Prince of Wales was present at a reception given by the Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher at 10 Downing Street yesterday evening to mark the official launch of The Per Cent Club.

Service dinners

Chatham Dining Club
Major-General G.H. Mills presided at a dinner of the Chatham Dining Club held last night at St Ermin's Hotel. Major-General Sir Desmond Langley was the guest of honour.

Combined Cadet Force
Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig, Chief of the Air Staff, was the principal guest at the annual officers' dinner of the Combined Cadet Force held at the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, yesterday. Commander A. Brown, Malvern College, was in the chair. Among others present were:

General Sir Hugh Beach, Vice-Admiral R. B. Baines, Rear-Admiral D. G. B. Baines, Captain J. W. Jones and P. C. Shephard and Air Vice-Marshal N. J. Pilkington and G. O. Lamb.

University news

Salford
Science and Engineering Research Council, £150,000 to Dr R. K. L. and Dr A. H. H. for analysis of structural models for general purpose assembly systems; £200,000 to Dr A. B. B. and Professor D. J. S. to study flexible robotic manipulation systems for remotely operated underwater vehicles.

Math
Grant Science and Engineering Research Council/Dorman Diesel: £104,830 to Dr S. J. Charlton for an investigation of pre-chamber configuration with reference to combustion and emissions for a lean-burn gas engine.

Rare prints found in old wardrobe

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Japanese prints found in the bottom of a wardrobe in a London council flat were the sensations of Christie's sale of Japanese prints and paintings yesterday.

There were two portraits of actors by Kinsida in bright colours and pristine condition dating from 1813 and 1814. One made £24,200 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000) and the other £14,300 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000).

They were sold from the estate of Miss Marie Gray, whose Japanese prints made up roughly half of Christie's sale. Marie Gray lived with Louis Meier, a well known print dealer with a shop in Cecil Court, off the Charing Cross Road. It was the kind of shop

where you hoped to find masterpieces among the overflowing piles of junk.

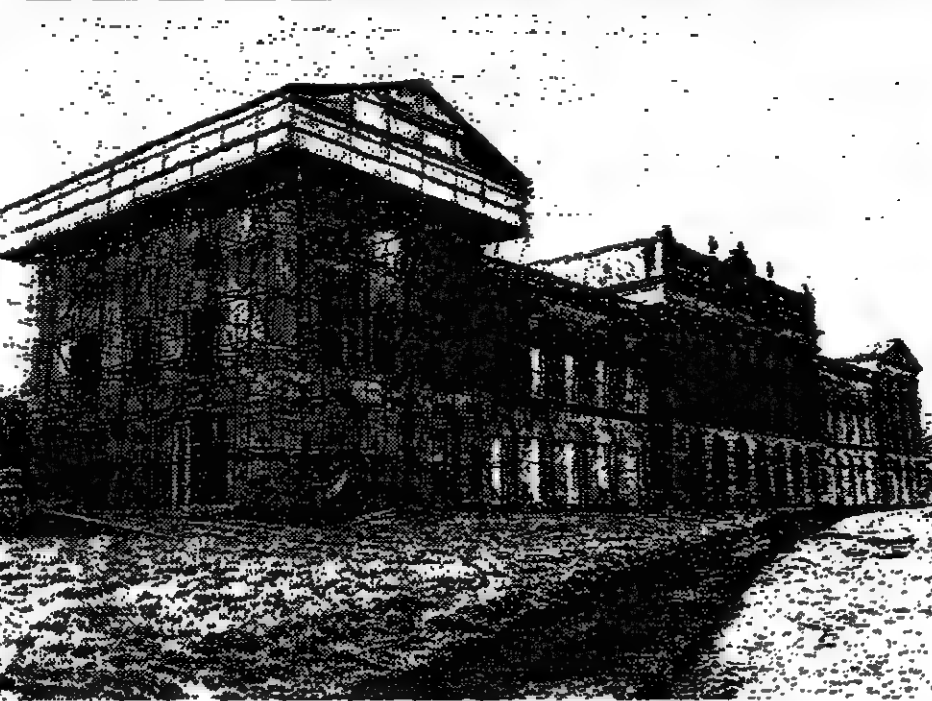
Mr Meier died three years ago and Marie Gray last year. Christie's were invited to clear the flat by the couple's solicitors. "It was overflowing with piles of prints on every surface and appeared not to have been cleaned for 20 years", said a Christie's spokesman. They were mostly cheap prints and extremely dirty.

But here and there Christie's found stars. There was a giltwood replica of a daybird from an Egyptian tomb which had been made in Cairo around 1900 and was worth some £7,000; there were Old Master drawings worth around £15,000, some antiquities and some Persian pottery, but the most valuable

pieces were among the Japanese prints, luckily hidden from the dirt in the bottom of a wardrobe.

The contents of the flat has already made more than £200,000, split between a range of Christie's sales. The proceeds go to charity.

Christie's morning sale of Japanese prints and paintings made £186,252 with only nine per cent unsold. There was strong demand at most price levels. A very rare portrait print by Kiyokoku, who worked in the early nineteenth century, made a remarkable £3,850 (estimate £600 to £900); it depicts a young woman holding a teacup and is so rare that Christie's literally did not know how to pick an estimate.



The fine Palladian front of Heveningham Hall in Suffolk under scaffolding (Photograph: Joe McKeown).

Fears for Heveningham

Concern is growing over the fate of Heveningham Hall, near Halesworth, Suffolk, which is widely recognized as one of the best Palladian mansions in Britain.

The house and 500-acre park was bought from the Department of the Environment in 1981 by an Arab businessman, Mr Abdul al-Ghazzi, who promised to restore it and allow public access.

But after a fire two years ago, which seriously damaged the east wing, where ironically restoration had started, work on Heveningham Hall has ceased.

It had been planned to repair the fire damage by the end of last year, but the hall today remains boarded and shuttered, with the east wing protected by polythene sheeting.

During this year most of the staff have been laid off. There is no public access to the hall or gardens, and a row has erupted over a proposal to divert a footpath through the park away from the house on security grounds.

The London headquarters of Mr al-Ghazzi's company, Gulfpark Property Management, and the administrator at Heveningham have declined to discuss the matter.

The Director of the Suffolk Preservation Society, Mr Paul Edwards, said: "We are very worried about the future of Heveningham. No one seems to know what is happening, and we should like to see the district council concerned, Suffolk Coastal, and the Environment Department, take action to ensure restoration goes ahead."

"It is impossible to overstate the importance of this building, and if the owners can give no suitable assurances, then frankly we would like to see someone else have a try with it."

Heveningham Hall was designed in the late 1770s by Sir Robert Taylor for Sir Gerard Vaneck, a member of a prominent City business family. Capability Brown laid out the grounds and James Wyatt was responsible for the interior.

The Vanecks lived there for nearly two centuries, but were eventually unable to afford the upkeep. They sold the hall to the Department of the Environment in 1970 and went to Australia. When Mr al-Ghazzi bought the house in 1981, it had been on the market for almost two years.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev S. A. Adams, assistant priest, St Mary Abbots, Kensington, diocese of London, to be Director of the Diocese of London Education and Continuing Ministerial Education and Training, diocese of London.

The Rev J. H. Adams, Chaplain, Trinity Hall, diocese of Ely, to be Rector, diocese of London.

The Rev M. P. Baynham, curate, St Edmund, Vauxhall, diocese of Bath and Wells, to be Vicar, diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev T. D. Baynham, Vicar, St Peter, Broadwater, Severn-Warke, diocese of Hereford, to be Vicar, diocese of Hereford.

The Rev J. D. Baynham, Vicar, St. Albans, diocese of Hereford, to be Vicar, diocese of Hereford.

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OBITUARY
PROFESSOR DOMINICA LEGGE

Eminent Anglo-Norman scholar

Professor Dominica Legge, Personal Professor of French (Anglo-Norman studies) at Edinburgh from 1968 to 1973, died on December 10, at the age of 81.

She was one of a generation of eminent scholars who devoted their lives to the analysis of the civilization established in England in the centuries immediately following the Norman conquest.

Mary Dominica Legge was born on March 26, 1905, and educated at Liverpool College, Huyton, and at Somerville College, Oxford.

After a distinguished undergraduate and postgraduate career, she took up an appointment in 1938 in the French department at Royal Holloway College.

She worked briefly at University College, Dundee, and as a voluntary civil servant with the Board of Trade before being appointed to Edinburgh in 1953. There she was made Reader in 1953 and given a personal chair in Anglo-Norman studies in 1968.

Dominica Legge combined the skills of the historian with those of the philologist and student of manners. Her major work, *Anglo-Norman Literature and its Background*, showed these gifts to perfection, as did also her study, *Anglo-Norman in the Cloisters*.

For generations of students she was an inspiration in finding a way to understand the medieval mind, in France as well as in England. By her colleagues and friends she was also appreciated for her ability to illustrate, on the spot, how medieval music might have sounded.

Her scholarship was recognized by election as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, as an honorary Fellow of Somerville College and by the award from the French government of the *Académie des Paléontologues*.

She was unmarried.

MR HENRY WINSTON

Mr Henry Winston, chairman of the Communist Party of the USA, and a campaigner on behalf of his fellow-black, died in Moscow on December 12, while on a visit for treatment of a brain tumour. He was 75.

Born into a family of Mississippi sharecroppers, he was active in the unemployed councils and in the Southern Negro Youth Congress during the Depression, before joining the Communist Party in 1933.

After war service with the US Army in Europe, he became organization secretary in 1947.

In the 1950s he was gaoled for eight years on charges of conspiring to advocate the violent overthrow of the US government.

In prison he went blind, which he always attributed to negligent medical treatment of an eye condition.

He became chairman of the party, which has fewer than 20,000 members, in 1966.

Among his books were *Strategy for a Black Agenda* and *Class, Race and Black Liberation*.

He leaves a widow, Fern, and a daughter.

MR WALTER HILL

Mr Walter Hill, secretary-general of the International Chamber of Commerce from 1957 to 1973, died on December 6. He was 62.

Educated at the London School of Economics, he joined *The Economist* in 1928, and later became the first director of its intelligence unit.

In 1946 he went to Washington to join the newly-created World Bank. Two years later he was posted to its Paris office where, until 1955, he was involved in the bank's financing of post-war reconstruction.

He became secretary-general of the ICC at a time when it was trying to shed its business club image and develop a practical role in the business world.

Hill's most notable achievement was the creation in 1969 of the ICC-UN, GATT economic consultative committee.

CHRISTOPHER SYKES

John Amis writes:

Your obituary of Christopher Sykes (December 10) contains a serious error.

Certainly he put his knowledge of music to good use in acting as producer of the BBC series *The Birth of an Opera* but the programmes were not, as you state, entirely his own work.

The scripts and choice of music were the work of the late Hanns Hammelmann, whose idea originated the series, and his co-writer Michael Rose, who edited the music in particular.

After Christopher Sykes left the BBC the series continued with Hallam Tennyson as producer.

Can you enjoy your Christmas knowing what his will be like?



This picture was taken last year in Bradford. It was not set up or reconstructed. We simply asked our photographer to record what he found in the cities of our country. Peter is two years old. He's just one of almost two million children living in appalling deprivation in Britain today. Living in conditions that

create family tensions, domestic violence and worse. Christmas Day won't be very much different. Every year The Children's Society helps thousands of such children. For every child we help, however, there are many we can't. This Christmas you could help us to help even more children next year.

Please send your donation to: Church of England Children's Society, Freepost, London WC1X 0BR.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount £ _____

We're grateful for your donation, but to save us money we will not send a receipt unless you tick this box. ☐

Access/

Barclaycard ☐

The Children's Society. Needed now more than ever

PHOTO MARK POWER

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.J. Bailey and Miss M.A. Alias. The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs R. Bailey, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Mary Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Allan, of Edenbridge, Kent.

Mr D. St J. Brown and Miss C. McGurn. The engagement is announced between David St John, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel D.A. Brown, retd, and Mrs Brown, of Durham, and Carol, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter McGurn, of Kew Terrace, Glasgow.

Mr B.M.N. Clarke and Miss C.E. Mandak. The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.V.C. Clarke, of The Lodge, Colne Engaine, Essex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Mauduit, of Seston House, Licham, Kent.

Mr C. Connors and Miss S.B. Turner Laing. The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs M. Connors, of Chiswick, London, and Sophie, eldest daughter of Mr G. Turner Laing, of Brimpton, Berkshire, and Mrs M. Drummond, of Fawley, Hampshire.

Mr C.P.T. Day and Miss S.N. Wright. The engagement is announced between Christopher Philip Terrest, eldest son of Mr D.H.T. Day, of Higham, Suffolk, and of Mrs Trenchard Day, of Moulton, Suffolk, and Sally Nicola,

younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K.E. Wright, of Easterton, Wiltshire.

Mr R.D.E. Haines and Miss M.C. Walker. The engagement is announced between Richard David Eliot, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.F.H. Haines, of Churt, Surrey, and Mary Cornwall, younger daughter of the Rev C.E.C. and Mrs Walker, of Great Amwell, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.M. Jones Warner and Miss J.E. Eden. The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs K.C. Jones, of Chingford, and Jane, elder daughter of Captain and Mrs R.M. Eden, of Ashstead, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Kavanagh and Miss L.C. Blemmer. The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Kavanagh, of 29 Edgware Square, Kensington, London, W8, and Lisa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Niels Blemmer, of Moor Park, Middlesex.

Mr W.E. Klander and Miss C.M. Case. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs W.E. Klander, of Pool Meadow, Gloucestershire, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs H.D. Case, of Star Court, Farnham.

Mr R.W. Main and Miss S.A.A. Collin. The engagement is announced between Rupert William, elder son of Mr and Mrs K.R. Main,

of Long Dixon, Surrey, and Sophie Anne Alice, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Collin, of Mulhouse, France.

Mr B.E. Paul and Miss C.A. Hawkins. The engagement is announced between Bruce Kenneth, elder son of Commander K.G. Paul, OBE, and Mrs Paul, of Alverstoke, Hampshire, and Clare Amanda, daughter of Squadron Leader and Mrs A.J.J. Hawkins, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

Mr C.W. Piller and Miss A.P. Fletcher. The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. Piller, of Clare, Suffolk, and Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J. Fletcher, of Thornton, Croydon, Lancashire.

Mr T.R. Rosser and Miss J.E. Thomas. The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.E. Rosser, of The Ham, Wantage, Oxfordshire, and Jill, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs P.M. Thomas, of 5 Widdlesham Court, Widdlesham, Surrey, formerly of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mr L.R. Wood and Miss M.M.C. Rahaghiati. The engagement is announced between Larry, son of Dr and Mrs Darwin L. Wood, of Murray Hill, New Jersey, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Rahaghiati, of Cheltenham, Wiltshire. The marriage will take place in Pennsylvania, on May 16.

Science report

The hidden oceans on Mars

By Keith Hindley

The surface of the planet Mars contains enough hidden moisture to form a planet-wide ocean half a mile deep, according to a new study of Mars by Dr Michael Carr, of the US Geological Survey at Menlo Park, California.

This startling idea of a water-rich Mars flies in the face of currently accepted wisdom, which pictures the Martian surface as a cold, dry, desert landscape swept by dust storms and with barely a trace of moisture.

To back up his ideas, Dr Carr cites evidence for vast stores of Martian water trapped within permanently frozen ground, particularly away from the feeble warmth of the Martian equator. Winding channels on Mars, which only have been formed by running water and much of the terrain is "softened" like granite cheese melting on a pizza in the oven.

This rounded landscape is best explained, says Dr Carr, by ice making up a major portion of the ground materials, as debris flows, ice-cemented chan-

nel networks and the appearance of closed depressions all over high latitudes.

Nowadays the martian atmosphere is so thin that free liquid water cannot exist anywhere for long because it quickly evaporates away. Even solid ice sublimates near the equator and only remains stable where day-time temperatures stay well below freezing point.

But this has not always been so. In past geological ages, the Martian atmosphere was much thicker and water could flow freely across the landscape. In the earliest period of martian history, the meteorite impact rate was high and many large craters were formed. These impacts shattered the surface to great depths and smothered the planet with loosely compacted ice-rich materials holding vast quantities of water and capable of absorbing even more.

Dr Carr believes the planet's cratered uplands at latitudes greater than 30 degrees have retained this ice which still makes up perhaps a fifth of their bulk near the surface and down

for perhaps two miles in depth. The highlands near the equator have lost their water by seepage to form the water channels and by evaporation.

Much of the moisture that ran off probably still exists either as ice in the planet's northern lowlands (where there are features reminiscent of terrestrial frozen ground) or on the deep floor of the great Hellas basin in the southern hemisphere. Most of the evaporated water was re-deposited on to the white martian polar caps which expand in winter with deposits of solid carbon dioxide from the air.

Dr Carr's modelling also suggests that large quantities of carbon dioxide and some nitrogen were fixed by geological processes. As a result carbonate and nitrate rocks should be found folded into the soils of the cratered highlands.

If water really is present in quantity on Mars it provides yet another necessity of life.

Source: *Nature*, vol 68, page 187, 1986.

Nimrod backers change tack

Continued from page 1

Prior has successfully put them in the Awacs camp.

Sources referred to Mr Prior's action as a disastrous public relations exercise, particularly as the claims of bias and irresponsibility inside the Ministry of Defence came from a politician who was ousted from the Cabinet.

The view in Whitehall was that Mr Prior was bound to fail in his eleventh-hour appeal for a full independent inquiry because Mrs Thatcher had no intention of being pushed around by a former Cabinet member.

Last week, Mr Younger and other defence ministers spent over an hour with each of the doubting Cabinet ministers to convince them that Nimrod was not the answer to Britain's early warning requirements.

According to sources, the undecided ministers thought that it was a close race between Nimrod and Awacs but they were shown the figures which demonstrate that the American aircraft outshines the British one. Mr Prior's weekend attack finally converted them.

In his list of Nimrod failures, Mr Younger is expected to point out that the Awacs can fly at about 39,000ft, much higher than Nimrod.

The Risk Assessment Group in the Ministry of Defence, which consists of the best scientific and technological experts in this field in Britain, examined both options and unanimously favoured the Awacs. The ministry's Equipment Policy Committee met on December 4 and also recommended Awacs.

However, according to Whitehall sources, there was a possibility that despite the overwhelming technical evidence in its favour, the political decision could still have gone against Awacs, because of the emotive support for the British model.

One source added: "If there was any doubt before Mr Prior spoke up, there certainly isn't any more."

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, on a two-day visit to Sheffield, yesterday supported the call for an independent inquiry. "Buy British and not Boeing - if they both work," he said.

He said that the GEC Nimrod could have an advantage over the American rival because the GEC system used more modern technology, which "should give it an advantage over the already ageing Boeing system."

Backing for Boeing, page 2

Minister renews old school tie



Mr Kenneth Baker with Miss Kath Renn, his former form mistress at Holy Trinity Primary School in Southport yesterday.

By Ian Smith

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, played truant from the turmoil of the teachers' negotiating table yesterday to sit obediently behind a school desk and accept a report on his classroom behaviour.

At the age of seven the wartime evacuee was, according to school mistress Kath Renn, an excellent pupil who gave no hint of his rise to exalted political heights but even then showed great educational potential.

With unusual modesty, Mr Baker shuffled his feet as he stood in Holy Trinity Primary School between desks so worn they might well have survived the era when he was a pupil at the Southport resort school between 1940 and 1945, to hear the evaluation of his youthful ability.

Glancing at her schoolboy protégé with beaming benevolence, Miss Renn, aged 69, spoke with nostalgia about the character-building dogma she instilled into an attentive pupil who has since become keeper of the nation's educational values.

Returning to Liverpool on one of the only occasions since he was first moved there as the

son of a Civil Servant thought invaluable enough to be taken out of the London mainstream, Mr Baker responded effusively, describing Miss Renn as an excellent teacher.

The only question-mark against the return visit was the admission by Mr Baker that whenever the air-raid siren sounded in Liverpool, a favourite war-time target for German bombers, he was ordered out to stand in the unsheltered school yard. Why? No doubt opposition teachers could offer an explanation.

Ostensibly Mr Baker's nostalgic return to Holy Trinity filled a gap in his timetable before he paid an official visit to Liverpool University to bestow government blessing on a gas turbine-driven pioneering scheme perfected by the university's science department. Before he left Holy Trinity - and faced a barrage of protest by demonstrators opposed to the imminent closure of Our Lady's Primary Church School in Lydiat, Liverpool, because of falling rolls - Mr Baker presented his former school with a cap to be presented annually for "progress in English" and a £100 cheque to finance additional prizes.



Mr Baker, right, in a school Empire Day parade in 1944.

Surinam receives aid from Gadaffi

Continued from page 1

of Surinamese exiles and sending them back to fight the Bouterse Government but both committees adamantly ruled this out on the grounds that Surinam was not yet a serious threat to the region.

Since then the US has not focused on Surinam and while it may favour the current uprising there is no suggestion that it is in any way involved. Venezuela and Colombia have also refused to give aid to Surinam.

The Netherlands - which four years ago suspended a \$1.5 billion aid programme, which amounted to \$100 million a year or a quarter of the national budget - has been assured by Brazil that its assistance is limited. Nevertheless, the Hague has cautioned Brazil to be prudent in its arms dealings with the regime.

Brazil has supplied clothing, light equipment, automatic weapons and training both in Surinam and at its own academies.

Clearly the Netherlands fears that Brazilian weapons will be turned on the population of its former colony. Exiles in The Netherlands, who include several wealthy Indian financiers, the rebellion, claim there have been mass killings of civilians by government troops during offensives in the country's rebel-dominated east. There have also been accusations of torture.

In October the Rotterdam newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* quoted Colonel Bouterse as saying that hand grenades were hurled from airplanes to drive out people with no business in the area. "Our patience is exhausted. We will shoot and flatten everything," he said.

In Paramaribo military activity has become intense. All day ago armoured transport trucks can be seen leaving a 17th century fort in the centre of the city, alongside the Surinam river, where Colonel Bouterse has his headquarters.

● WASHINGTON: The State Department said yesterday that it had no information on any Libyan agreement with Surinam (Michael Binyon writes). A spokesman said rumours of Libyan involvement had been around for some time and reports surfaced occasionally that Libya had strengthened its links with the country.

Frank Johnson at the Commons

Air ace homes in with new system

Mr Kevin McNamara, an Opposition spokesman on defence, yesterday called for an emergency debate so that the Opposition could protest against the Government's presumed decision in favour of the American-built Awacs (Airborne Warning and Control System).

Mr McNamara's move was a formal confirmation that Labour had opted for the British-built Hovis (Hot-airborne Opportunistic Vote-inducing System).

Labour members get few chances to play the patriotic card these days, what with their defence policy and the appearance Mr Kinnock has given of being prepared to have friendly contacts with the leading Pommie-bashing power. So it would be churlish to begrudge them its use in the controversy about Nimrod and Awacs.

Labour's boffins had obviously studied all the data, carried out tests and decided to recommend to the party brass that Hovis was by far the best system for the party to adopt in its difficult search for vote-intensive issues at the next general election, as well as the cheapest.

Over the weekend, the conflict over Nimrod and Awacs seemed to reach some sort of a climax. So yesterday Hovis was given its first major trial by Labour's pilots in the Commons. Men such as genial, quietly professional, experienced hot-air ace Mr McNamara.

The proposed purchase by the RAF of an early-warning system was the largest contract in the field of high technology, electronics and avionics to be awarded during this Parliament, he told the House, in asking the Speaker to allow the emergency debate.

There followed much confident assertion of the superiority of British Nimrod to American Awacs. Here Mr McNamara understandably failed to discuss one consideration: the ease with which any Government which opts for an American product can be depicted by an Opposition as not protecting British jobs, British technology etc.

Mr McNamara smoothly ended his test flight with a demand that an emergency debate was also necessary because of the "implications for British industry and national pride". He was greeted with cheers by Labour backbenchers when he landed.

Mr McNamara sat back relaxed and pleased with his performance and anxious for another flight as soon as possible.

The Speaker declined Mr McNamara's request. That did not deter Mr Greville Jenner, the Labour member for Leicester West, from similarly asking for an emergency debate on a related issue affecting votes in his constituency: the decision that the Harrier GR5 Mission Simulator should not be built in Britain. Unfortunately, Mr Jenner pronounced it the Harrier GR5 Mission Simulator.

This aroused additional interest among the more rabid backbenchers. A few Tory vulgarians cried "withdraw". Labour prepared to express the view that it would be the final blow to British industry and national pride if we were unable to produce our own simulators.

Tory dreamers looked forward to the day when a regenerated Britain would sell simulators to Japan. But Mr Jenner corrected it to Simulator and interest in his emergency debate rather died. At any rate, the Speaker declined it.

It had been reported that Labour leaders did not want the party thriller writer, Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, to publish his latest just yet (all about M15 bugging and burgling the then Mr Harold Wilson as Prime Minister).

The fear was that Mr Campbell-Savours might detract voters' attention from the Nimrod-Awacs affair, which may be less exciting but which is thought directly to involve jobs in many constituencies.

Mr Campbell-Savours seemed to have taken this as a challenge. Yesterday he secured a short debate in which he produced his latest plot. But it was rather like an Agatha Christie with the second half missing. There were endless characters and situations, but no development of the plot.

One of the new characters was a Mr Martin who was in M15 and who had been mixed up with Mr Wright and who had been, at the relevant time, clerk to the Commons Agriculture Committee, which was rather a let-down. Mr Campbell-Savours could have made it a more glamorous committee. Was Mr Martin feeding stuff to the Russians as well?

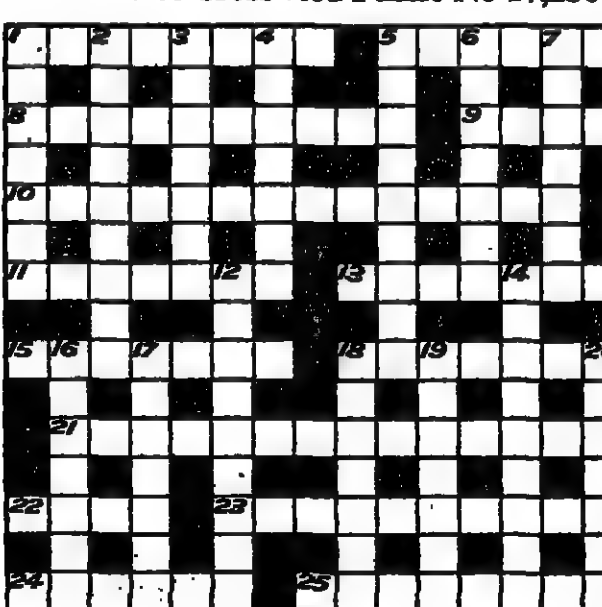
Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales visits Quantel Limited, 31 Turpin Road, Newbury, Berkshire, 10.35; and Research Machines, Mill Street, Botley Road, Oxford, 12.30; later attends an English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society Concert at The Queen Elizabeth Hall, SE1, 7.35.

Princess Alexandra attends a concert being held in Westminster Abbey to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund, 7.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,230



ACROSS

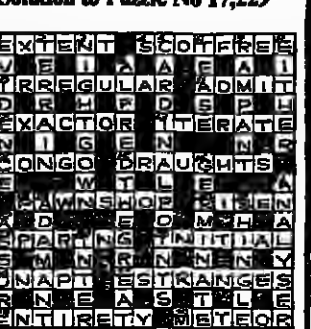
- European wife preceding husband (8).
- Provide inspiration for puzzle (6).
- Pogeys have trouble with some canvas (6,4).
- An extreme of nationalism is nothing unusual (4).
- Guess it's no cooler at night (1,4,2,3,4).
- Game couple (7).
- Sign of renewed ill feeling (7).
- Do this in panic, once defeated (7).
- Adorning one centrepiece after a month (7).
- Bad rule - adds no end of resentment, perhaps (6,8).
- It's found in S.E. Asia, also in other places (4).
- Board's tricky (10).
- Not even child can be such a favourite (4-2).
- Is intoxicated with hearty over-excitement (8).

DOWN

- Some of the French are unable to sing this way (7).
- Light score (3,4).
- Hard speech cut in

- Shakespearean part (7).
- Lack never experienced by people here (7).
- Darling nonetheless goes on ahead to pavilion (9).
- State Helena is always in (7).
- Films' short time in stormy skies (7).
- Trader's centre on island (9).
- Tommy King's warship (9).
- Veteran replaced in New Deal (3,4).
- Instruction in preparing menus (7).
- Song about an old herbal remedy (7).
- Argument against one match or another (7).
- Got idea worked out in plant (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,229



Concise Crossword page 13

Music

Yuletide Concert by Lady Mary High School Concert Windband, St. David's Hall, Cardiff, 1.05pm.

Christmas Concert by Consensus Vocalis, St Thomas More Church, Meeting Lane, Towcester, 8.

Christmas Concert by The Abbey Singers, Carlisle Cathedral, 7.30.

Orchestra of Welsh National Opera celebrates Beethoven's Birthday, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

The Snowman by The Sinfonia Chorus, Leisure Centre, Garsbread, 7.30.

A celebration of Richard Dimbleby, the broadcaster, in words and music, Westminster Abbey, 7.

Carols by Salvation Army Band and Singers in the churchyard, St Mary-le Bow Church, Chesapeake, EC2, 12-2.

Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields: Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, 7.30.

London Trombone Ensemble with music by Bach, Chopin, Falla and Owyer, St Martin's Place, WC2, 10.0pm.

Apollo Brass Quintet: The Foyer, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, 12.30-2.

Sinfonia Medica: St Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone Rd, NW1, 8.

English Chamber Orchestra: Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, EC2, 7.45.

Christmas Toccata: St Peter le Poer, Maxwell Hill, 8.

Christmas Concert by London Brass, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, 1.10.

The Diamond and the Goose, London Symphony Orchestra and John Dankworth, Barbican Centre, 7.15.

English Chamber Orchestra Closing Concert of Portugal 600 Festival, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, 7.15.

Messiah, The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra; St John's Smith Square, SW1, 7 (ends Dec 20).

Talks Professor Andrew Duncan (Senior) 1744-1828 by Dr J T D Hall; Old Edinburgh Club, William Robertson Building (Room 8) George Square, 7.15.

Talks

Power And How To Get It by B H C Gronker; Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow, 8.

Two Heroines, a lecture by Jane Davies and Jane Warlow; Castle Museum, Nottingham, 1.

Dickensian Christmas Festival; Malton and Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire; ends Dec 24.

Christmas post Tomorrow is the latest recommended date for posting inland parcels and second class letters and cards in time for Christmas. For first class letters and cards the latest recommended date is Friday.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending December 7

- EastEnders (Thurs/Sat) 28.5m
- EastEnders (Tues/Sun) 22.4m
- Just Good Friends 16.5m
- Who's the Boss? 15.5m
- Paul Daniels Magic Show 11.7m
- Portage (on Scotland) 11.7m
- The Gaid, the Bed and the Ugly 10.7m
- 19-00-10 10.4m
- Dallas 10.2m
- ITV Coronation Street (Wed) Granada 16.7m
- Coronation Street (Mon) Granada 16.2m
- The A-Team (TV) 13.8m
- Second Night: A Night on the Night 13.7m
- Subway Central 12.5m
- The 100th Anniversary 12.4m
- The Evening News 12.3m
- New Year Celebration 12.2m
- Results of About 12.2m

Victoria Wood - As Seen on TV 7.30m

ITV News 6.4m

7 Faces of Dr Lao 5.10m

Entertainment 4.8m

Just Another Day 4.5m

No Limits (Tues/Sun) 4.4m

See You 3.10m

Golden Eye 3.10m

Robby Darnell 3.0m

The Laurence Olivier Awards 1986 3.0m

Channel 4 Brookside (Tues/Sat) 6.5m

Brookside (Mon/Sat) 6.5m

Brookside (Wed) 6.5m

Change in A Million 3.25m

Countdown (Tues) 3.10m

Countdown (Thurs) 3.05m

Roads

London and South-east: A217: Long delays, peak periods, near St Marks Road, Mitcham. A315: Single line traffic at North Road, Brentford. A305: Alternate line traffic between Brier and First Cross Roads, Twickenham, delays at peak periods.

The Midlands: M5: Lane restrictions between junctions 4 and 8 (Bromsgrove and M50). M54: Lane closures between junctions 2 and 6 (Wolverhampton and Wellington). A1: Delays northbound between Hummingdon and Peterborough.

Wales and the West: M4: Contrail between junctions 16 and 17 (Swindon West and Chippenham). M5: Lane closures junction 14 (Thornbury), northbound slip road closed. A48: Lane restrictions between Llandaff and Gabaia, peak time delays.

The North: M6: Delays between junctions 29 and 32 (Preston and M55). A1: Delays at Boroughbridge, near Ripon. A57: Single lane between Irian and Caddishead.

Scotland: M8: Eastbound lane closures between junctions 17 and 15 (Kelvinside and Townhead). A9: Contrail at Fifehead Road, Banchory, delays.

Anniversaries Births: Catherine of Aragon, first queen of Henry VIII, Alcala de Henares, 1485; Jane Austen, Steventon, 1775.

Deaths: Wilhelm Grimm, philologist and mythologist, Berlin, 1839; Charles Camille Saint-Saëns, Algiers, 1921; Somerset Maugham, Cap Ferret, 1965; Harold Holt, prime minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, 1967.

The pound Bank Buys Sells

Australia 2.24 2.12

Belgium 63.10 59.50

Canada 2.043 1.999

Denmark 11.57 10.77

France 7.51 7.01

Germany 2.52 2.24

Italy 1.11 1.05

Japan 209.20 197.0

Norway 11.31 10.71

Spain 16.37 15.25

Switzerland 2.35 2.25

USA 1.495 1.425

Yugoslavia 2.50 2.30

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Small Price Index: 1984.1

London: The FT Index closed down 0.1 at 1298.2.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading. Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No 3) Order.

House of Lords: Fire Safety and of Sport Bill.

Portfolio - how to play Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio today to determine your weekly Portfolio total. If you total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won the Portfolio prize. The prize is £10,000. For full details see the Portfolio guide, which is available free of charge from the Portfolio office. No responsibility can be accepted for any loss or damage to the Portfolio guide. The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend figures.

These are Sunday's figures. Figures not available.

CHITREWS NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share
1280.3 (-0.1)
FT-SE 100
1637.0 (+7.2)
Bargains
29882 (30340)
USM (Datastream)
129.64 (+0.2)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.4325 (+0.0040)
W German mark
2.8858 (+0.0045)
Trade-weighted
68.8 (+0.1)

US banks in \$75bn merger

New York Reuter - Texas Commerce Bancshares is to merge with Chemical New York Corporation - creating the fifth largest US bank, with assets of \$75 billion (\$52 billion).

Morgan Stanley, the investment adviser, valued the deal at \$1.19 billion, one of the largest interstate banking deals ever. This merger is the first since the change of state laws this year allowing out-of-state banks to acquire Texas banks.

Texas Commerce is the fourth largest Texas bank and operates 70 banks in the state. Under Texas law, each bank office operates as a separate entity.

Carlton to raise £40m

Carlton Communications, the fast growing television services and satellite broadcasting company, is to make an offering of its ordinary shares in the United States in the region of £30 million-£40 million, equivalent to around 15 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Temps, page 25

ECC jumps

English China Glass made £90.4 million pretax profits in the year to the end of September, compared with £74.6 million last year, on turnover down 4 per cent to £688.6 million. Earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 28.44p. A dividend of 8.25p was recommended, making a total of 12.5p for the year.

Temps, page 25

Hoskyns debut

Hoskyns Group, the computer services company, is seeking a full listing on the Stock Exchange with a 25 per cent placing of its shares by J Henry Schroder Wagg. The company is valued at £46.8 million at the placing price of 128p. The shares will yield 1.8 per cent gross. Dealings start on Friday.

Temps, page 25

BCA sell-off

British Car Auction Group has agreed to sell All-States Vehicles, its American vehicle leasing business, to Mr R. E. Kelly, the All-States president, for about \$15 million (£10.5 million).

Ward near

Ward White, the retail group locked in a £173 million takeover bid for LCP Holdings, is close to controlling 43 per cent of the company after further stock market purchases.

Wall Street	22	Traded Opt	24
Commodities	22	FT 100	25
Stock Market	23	Unit Trusts	26
Co News	24	Commodities	26
Money Mkts	24	USM Prices	26
Foreign Exch	24	Share Prices	27

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS			
New York	1886.37	(-15.89)	
Dow Jones	1886.37	(-15.89)	
Tokyo	18788.94	(-41.70)	
Nikkei Dow	2448.43	(-13.80)	
Hong Kong	284.0	(-2.1)	
Amsterdam: Gen	1436.1	(+0.4)	
Sydney: AO	2033.6	(-17.5)	
Frankfurt	4049.95	(-18.61)	
Commerzbank	554.20	(-1.5)	
Brussels	1161.1	(+0.1)	
General	1161.1	(+0.1)	
Paris: CAC	1161.1	(+0.1)	
3-month Treasury	5.50-5.48%		
30-year bonds	100 1/2-100 1/4		
FT 100	1637.0	(+7.2)	
FT 30 Share	1280.3	(-0.1)	
FT-SE 100	1637.0	(+7.2)	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%
3-month interbank 11 1/2-11 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-11 1/4%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 7 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/2-5 3/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.50-5.48%
30-year bonds 100 1/2-100 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London		New York	
£/\$	1.4325	\$/£	0.6982
£/DM	2.8858	DM/£	0.3465
£/Sfr	2.4338	Sfr/£	0.4109
£/FF	6.5545	FF/£	15.4080
£/Yen	233.64	Yen/£	4.2801
£/Index	68.8	Index/£	1.4535
£/ECU	1.3660	ECU/£	0.7320

High street sales climb 2.4%

Dramatic rise in spending

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The high street spending boom moved up a gear last month with a sharp 2.4 per cent increase in the volume of retail sales which are now on course for their strongest rise since 1978.

In the first 11 months of the year, sales volume was 5 per cent up on last year. The index of sales volume last month, 126.1 (1980 = 100), compared with 123.2 in October, and was 7.2 per cent up on a year earlier.

But British industry has not been enjoying the full fruits of this spending boom, despite tentative signs of recovery. The official Treasury forecast is for no rise in manufacturing output this year. Industrial production figures for October are due to be published today.

The volume of sales had shown no increase in October and most analysts had expected only a small rise last month.

Christmas shopping clearly played an important part in last month's spending although much of this should be picked up in the seasonal adjustments applied to the figures. A similar jump in spending in November last year suggests that the adjustments are not sufficient for what may be a greater concentration of spending in the pre-Christmas period.

Mr Richard Weir, acting director general of the Retail Consortium, said: "There is no doubt that retail volume is buoyant but the experience of our members does not quite match the official figures."

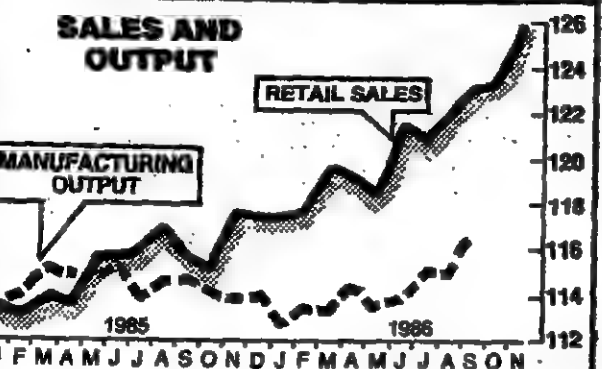
Spending on consumer durables and Christmas gifts is very strong, Mr Weir said, but sales of clothing have been slower than retailers hoped.

Spending by value totalled £8.17 billion last month, 10 per cent up on the corresponding month of last year. Spending was equivalent to £2.04 billion a week, compared with £1.85 billion in October.

In the first 11 months of the year, sales value was 8 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of last year.

Retailers have reported record sales so far in December. The John Lewis Partnership said that department store sales in the first week exceeded last year's peak, achieved later in the month, by a wide margin.

The 2.4 per cent jump in retail sales last month happened in spite of the fact that many people were faced with a higher mortgage rate.



Capital tunes in to £1.7m profits

By John Bell, City Editor

Capital Radio, which is seeking a full Stock Exchange listing early in the New Year, raised pretax profits by 82 per cent to £1.7 million in the year ended last September.

Capital, which claims to be Britain's biggest independent radio station, enjoyed an "excellent" year, according to chairman Sir Richard Attenborough.

The main factors behind the profits rise were internal economies, a 10 per cent growth in advertising revenue,

CAPITAL RADIO 194

and a reduction in the Exchequer Levy.

Before deductions of £2.1 million for IBA rental and Exchequer Levy, trading profit was £3.6 million compared with £2.8 million previously, on turnover of £18.5 million. After tax profits were £1 million, against £449,000.

Sir Richard said that advertising revenue continued its upturn strongly through the year, reinforced by energetic sales and marketing and a new rate card.

"We look forward to Capital Radio being listed on the Stock Exchange in the early part of 1987. It is a development which should bring about a widening of ownership and enable us to be ready to take advantage of future opportunities," said Sir Richard.

US output up

US industrial production rose 0.6 per cent in November - 0.8 per cent up on a year ago - after a revised 0.1 per cent increase in October, the Federal Reserve Board said.

Cannon in debts deal with Bond

By Colin Nairn

Cannon Group, the Israeli-owned film makers and distributors, yesterday announced an agreement with the Bond Corporation of Australia over debts incurred when Cannon acquired the British cinema chain Screen Entertainment from Bond this year.

The accord came only hours before a key payment deadline and, after suggestions that Cannon, which controls about 40 per cent of Britain's cinema, might be forced into US debt proceedings if it was unable to meet the original payments schedule.

A statement said the agreement "in principle" reached in New York between Cannon Group Incorporated and Bond Corporation Holdings called for the payment of £53.3 million and conversion of a £30.6 million (£21.1 million) balance into four-year senior subordinated notes on Friday, initially extending the maturity of

outstanding debts to that date.

Cannon granted Bond 500,000 warrants to purchase Cannon common stock at \$16 per share.

This compared with loans of about \$10. The warrants open the way for Bond to gain a stake of more than 5 per cent in Cannon.

If initial payment is made on Friday, Bond will grant Cannon video and theatrical rights in Australia. Bond bived off these rights when it purchased Screen Entertainment from Thorn EMI.

Asked what was expected if Cannon failed to meet the Friday deadline, a Bond spokesman said his company "continued to be confident" about receiving full payment.

An inquiry by American regulatory authorities into the Cannon's accounting policies in depressed its New York quoted shares leaving analysts uncertain about the value of its assets.

£8m Irish buy in US

Cement-Roadstone Holdings, the largest industrial company in Ireland, continued its policy of international expansion yesterday by spending \$11.65 million (£8.1 million) on strategic shareholdings in two well-placed building materials operations in the US.

CRH is paying \$6.25 million for 50 per cent of Boorham-Fields an aggregates business operating in Texas and Oklahoma and \$5.4 million for 50 per cent of Faulkner Concrete Pipe Company.

Both businesses will continue to be managed by their previous owners. After five years, however, Cement Roadstone has the option to buy

YTV outstrips its profits forecast

By Alison Eadie

Yorkshire Television, whose offer for sale last August was 51 times over-subscribed, beat its forecast of £8.25 million pretax profit by achieving profits of £8.93 million in the year to the end of September.

The Exchequer levy cost £3.37 million. Profits in 1984-85, which were unaffected by the levy, were £3.58 million.

Yorkshire's share of net advertising rose from 8.9 per cent at the start of the year to 9.3 per cent at the end and has now moved up to 9.1 per cent. The company says it is bucking the trend of advertising

revenue drifting from the north to the south.

Exports held up at 1985 levels, despite cutbacks on programme production. Yorkshire sold 650 hours of television to 75 countries.

This year the catalogue has been expanded through renewed production and demand for programmes, particularly from the USA, has continued strongly.

Yorkshire did not join any of the consortium bidding for the Direct Broadcasting by Satellite contract awarded by the Independent Broadcasting Authority last week.

Risk of using a licensed dealer

Sid not expected to sell out

By Richard Lander and Peter Gartland

Millions of private applicants for the British Gas share flotation should receive their letters of allocation to day, although City analysts believe that any wave of selling by "Sids" will be smaller and gentler than first thought.

Far from wilting yesterday at the prospect of an army of Sids bearing down on their stockbrokers and bankers, British Gas shares firmed 1 1/2 to 64 1/2 - 29 per cent above their 50p partly-paid flotation price.

Volume continued to be very heavy with 164 million shares changing hands.

The shares' premium, although healthy, is well below the early staggering profits experienced with the TSB and British Telecom flotations, giving private shareholders less incentive to sell out immediately.

It also appears that many investors have become more sophisticated since the BT float and probably understand better the benefits from waiting for the bill vendors to be sent out next year.

"I think the Sids are going to be more canny than the market thinks," said Ms Sue Graham, energy analyst at Merrill Lynch. "They should beware of the institutions out to rattle them and get them to sell their shares cheaply."

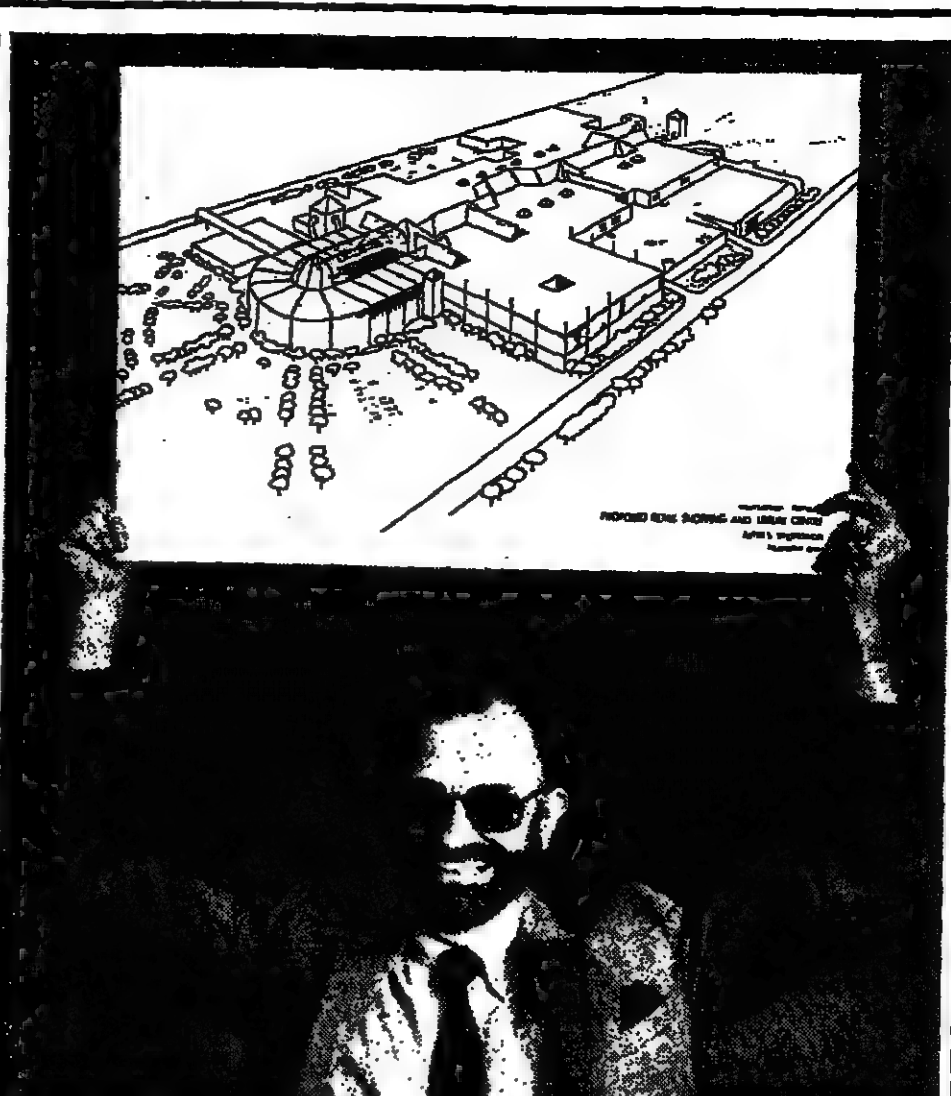
Indeed, one analyst said some institutions had sold British Gas short last week in the hope of buying the shares back at lower prices after the allocation letters went out.

This scramble to cover short positions, along with purchases by other institutions at home and abroad seeking British Gas for their long-term portfolio, should help to underpin demand and absorb any selling that does come from individuals.

Most private investors who wanted to sell their British Gas shares before receiving their allocation letters had no alternative but to sell through a licensed dealer.

But, apart from losing out in terms of price, selling through a licensed dealer carries the risk of having one's name put on a mailing list, and therefore receiving unsolicited invitations to invest in speculative, little-known companies.

Now, armed with their allocation letters, investors will almost certainly be quoted a better price from one of the four brokers to the issue.



Rover's Graham Day yesterday: confident, but competition is strong

Competition for Rover's Scottish development

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Rover's £100 million development plan, announced yesterday, for a massive shopping centre development at its redundant Bathgate truck plant site in central Scotland faces a number of serious hurdles before it becomes reality.

The one million sq ft development is only one of a number of similar planning applications in the Glasgow-Edinburgh central Scotland corridor.

A leading developer of large retail sites of this type is said to have turned down the site at Bathgate for a smaller development.

Rover's plan is only one of a clutch of recent planning applications for large retail-based centres in this part of Scotland. Some are already at appeal.

And it is bound to leave a question mark over how far Rover, which has still to find a developer as a partner, will be successful in its planning application which went in to West Lothian District Council yesterday.

The Rover move was announced yesterday by Mr Graham Day, the chairman, who said: "We were faced with the option of simply doing nothing and waiting for a developer to come along with a project or coming up with our own idea. The site is costing us money and is not producing revenue."

A company spokesman added: "We are aware of the other planning applications but feel that ours differs because it offers considerable leisure facilities."

Rover is looking to a developer partner to put together an investment package for the project.

Mr John Hall, of Cameron Hall which developed the Glasgow Metro Centre, is said to have withdrawn from negotiations for a smaller version of the Glasgow Metro project at the Rover site.

This was after outline planning permission was secured by Heron Corporation in the summer for a 400,000 sq ft extension to the Almondvale Centre in central Livingston, bringing this retail complex up to about 750,000 sq ft.

Livingston is less than ten miles from Bathgate where Cameron Hall had been considering a centre of about 400,000 sq ft.

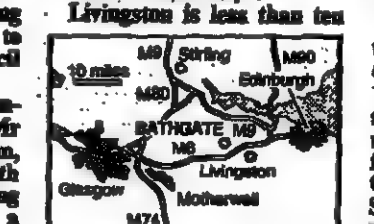
There is already an application for a Whirling site at Bathgate an application is for a retailing centre of close on 1 million sq ft. Other plans in the Edinburgh-Glasgow corridor include a South Gyle, Edinburgh, development (400,000 sq ft with Marks and Spencer and Asda, the supermarket chain, involved) and one at Heronston Gait, Edinburgh (a 400,000 sq ft regional centre proposed by Miller Developments).

There are tandem proposals and some have gone to appeal.

At the Glasgow end of the corridor a £175 million plan for one million sq ft of retail and leisure development at Motherwell has been turned down, the site being in green belt land.

Highland Developments, the proposer of this regional centre, is expected to appeal.

The bigger schemes on the scale proposed by Rover would rely on bringing in custom from a wide area ranging from Glasgow and Edinburgh to Stirling, all well connected by motorways.



He said that other banks and multi-national companies with large foreign currency exposure were now certain to be interested in restructuring their capital. Scandinavian Bank had already been approached for advice by four London-registered banks and was sending out letters to 5,000 customers and contacts explaining the significance of the move.

Ruling by court on bank capital

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Banks and other public limited companies are allowed to hold their capital in a mixture of foreign currencies, according to an important High Court ruling yesterday. It means that companies will be able to structure their capital to reduce their exposure to currency fluctuations.

The ruling is thought to be the first of its kind in a western industrialized country and will considerably enhance the attractions of London as a financial centre.

In response to a petition by Scandinavian Bank, the London-based institution owned by five of the largest Scandinavian banks, Mr Justice Harman decided that companies were entitled to hold their capital in currencies other than sterling. However, public limited companies had to maintain a minimum of £50,000 within their overall capital to comply with Companies Act requirements.

Scandinavian Bank, which first started working on the possibility of a multi-currency capital base five years ago, aims to carry out the conversion by the new year. It will hold 50 per cent of its capital in dollars, 20 per cent in sterling, 15 per cent in marks and 15 per cent in Swiss francs to match the currency spread of its assets.

The move has been approved by the Bank of England and the Inland Revenue and all relevant government departments, including the Treasury.

Mr Garrett Bouton, the bank's chief executive, said that sterling depreciation had forced the bank to raise £30 million in new capital since 1981 to maintain regulatory ratios. If it had been able to hold its capital in several currencies during that period, it would not have had to raise any new capital and profits would not have materially suffered.

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Talks ended

The Steelley board has ended discussions on an offer for Nottingham Brick after a sharp rise in the Nottingham share price.

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MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %	Interbank %	Dollar Cds %
Clearing Banks 11	Overnight open 11 close 12%	1 month 8.45-8.50
Discount House 11%	1 week 10% 10% 11% 11%	3 month 8.15-8.20
Discount Market Loans %	1 month 11% 11% 11% 11%	6 month 8.15-8.20
Overnight 11% Low 9	3 month 11% 11% 11% 11%	
Week End 10%	6 month 11% 11% 11% 11%	
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	Local Authority Deposits %	Gold %
3 month 10%	2 days 10%	Gold 394.00-394.50
6 month 10%	7 days 10%	394.00-394.50
9 month 10%	1 month 11%	394.00-394.50
12 month 10%	3 month 11%	394.00-394.50
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	Local Authority Bonds %	Sovereigns %
1 month 10%	1 month 11%	394.00-394.50
3 month 10%	3 month 11%	394.00-394.50
6 month 10%	6 month 11%	394.00-394.50
9 month 10%	9 month 11%	394.00-394.50
12 month 10%	12 month 11%	394.00-394.50
Trade Bills (Discount %)	Sovereigns %	Gold %
1 month 10%	394.00-394.50	394.00-394.50
3 month 10%	394.00-394.50	394.00-394.50
6 month 10%	394.00-394.50	394.00-394.50
9 month 10%	394.00-394.50	394.00-394.50
12 month 10%	394.00-394.50	394.00-394.50

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put	Series	Call	Put
Allied Lyons	280 32 40 50 2 7 12	280 32 40 50 2 7 12	Shell Trans	500 88 108 125 2 14 25	500 88 108 125 2 14 25
British Gas	50 15% 17% 19% 1% 1% 1%	50 15% 17% 19% 1% 1% 1%	Trafalgar House	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
BP	600 110 122 1 1 8 9	600 110 122 1 1 8 9	TSB	70 8 11 14% 1 2 4	70 8 11 14% 1 2 4
Coca Cola	550 125 144 2 8 13	550 125 144 2 8 13	Unilever	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
Courtauld	280 32 40 50 2 7 12	280 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
Com Union	280 32 40 50 2 7 12	280 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
Cable & Wire	300 32 40 50 2 7 12	300 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
GE	180 32 40 50 2 7 12	180 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
Grand Met	350 32 40 50 2 7 12	350 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
ICI	1000 107 125 148 2 12 18	1000 107 125 148 2 12 18	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
Land Sec	300 32 40 50 2 7 12	300 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17
Marine & Spn	180 32 40 50 2 7 12	180 32 40 50 2 7 12	Woolworth	280 8 18 24 9 14 17	280 8 18 24 9 14 17

December 15, 1986. Total contracts 35114. Call 25240. Put 12574. FT-SE Index: 2527. Underlying security prices.

COMPANY NEWS

● **HALMA:** Interim dividend of 0.78p (0.65p) for the 26 weeks to Sept. 27, payable on Feb. 9. Turnover £17.29 million (£14.32 million). Pretax profit £2.84 million (£2.26 million). Earnings per share 4.79p (3.69p). The board remains confident that the group has considerable potential for further growth.

● **COMPSOFT HOLDINGS:** Figures in 2000 for the six months to September 30. Total sales were 1,085 (1,151) and total operating costs were 1,092 (973). The company expects the British concerns to continue to make a small profit for the year.

● **MCLEOD RUSSEL:** Mr John Guthrie, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that, on the basis of present price levels, he expects group profits for the current year to show an improvement.

APPOINTMENTS

Managing director named at Salomon



Salomon Brothers: Mr Peter Clarke becomes managing director on January 1. Public Relations Consultants Association: Mr Michael Joyce becomes chairman elect from next May.

Save & Prosper Group: Mr Ian Horsfield and Mr Ian Lindsay are executive directors from January 1. The National Magazine Company: Miss Denny Barnes becomes art director and associate editor, SHE magazine on January 5. A.T.A.: Mr Charles McLellan becomes director general. Nationwide Key Service: Mr Frank Beesley has joined the board as business development director. BEAMA Meter Association: Mr Alan Wood has been elected chairman. Cambridge Communication: Dr Richard Turton has become managing director. Charles Barker City: Miss Lisa Spiro and Mr Bill Grady become directors. Miss Laura Carr and Mr Peter d'Aguilar become assistant directors. The Tread Group: Sir Hugh Cunningham has been named non-executive group chairman and Air Vice-Marshal Alan Merriman as a non-executive director. Etam: Mr B Scruby is now a non-executive director. Derek Bryant Group: Mr E. Geoffrey MacDonald has been made finance director (designate).

Peter Clarke. Henry Cooke, Lumsden: Mr David Anderson becomes a director. Sequent Computer Systems: Mr Michael Simon is now vice-president, marketing. Elico Holdings: Mr Field Walton becomes non-executive chairman from January 1. Mr Michael Webster becomes group managing director. John Govett & Co: Mr Roy Brooks, Mr Richard Lamb and Mr Richard Robinson are now directors. Charles Hammond: Mr Richard Martin has been made an executive director. Institute of Marketing: Professor Michael Baker has become chairman. Charles Fulton (DB): Mr Michael Higgins has joined the board. BPCC (US): Mr Robert Smith becomes executive vice-president, finance and administration. Myson Group: Mr Colin Scott joins the board on January 1.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
December 15	December 15	1.72-1.73p	1.74-1.75p
N York 1.4310-1.4330	0.82-0.83p	0.84-0.85p	0.86-0.87p
London 1.7340-1.7370	1.7340-1.7370	1.7340-1.7370	1.7340-1.7370
Amst 2.5450-2.5470	2.5450-2.5470	2.5450-2.5470	2.5450-2.5470
Brussels 50.91-50.15	50.91-50.15	50.91-50.15	50.91-50.15
Frankfurt 10.827-10.827	10.827-10.827	10.827-10.827	10.827-10.827
Dusseldorf 1.0565-1.0516	1.0565-1.0516	1.0565-1.0516	1.0565-1.0516
Frankfurt 2.8570-2.8511	2.8570-2.8511	2.8570-2.8511	2.8570-2.8511
London 213.50-215.05	213.50-215.05	213.50-215.05	213.50-215.05
Madrid 194.04-194.58	194.04-194.58	194.04-194.58	194.04-194.58
Amst 184.80-200.54	184.80-200.54	184.80-200.54	184.80-200.54
Oslo 10.831-10.831	10.831-10.831	10.831-10.831	10.831-10.831
Paris 9.4371-9.4777	9.4371-9.4777	9.4371-9.4777	9.4371-9.4777
Stockholm 9.9531-9.9778	9.9531-9.9778	9.9531-9.9778	9.9531-9.9778
Tokyo 233.47-234.31	233.47-234.31	233.47-234.31	233.47-234.31
Vienna 20.27-20.33	20.27-20.33	20.27-20.33	20.27-20.33
Zurich 2.4332-2.4368	2.4332-2.4368	2.4332-2.4368	2.4332-2.4368

Starting rates compared with 1975 was up at 86.4 (day's range 86.7-88.1).

OTHER STERLING RATES	DOLLAR SPOT RATES
Argentina austral 1.7161-1.7221	Ireland 1.3540-1.3570
Australia dollar 2.1628-2.1680	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Bahraini dinar 0.5335-0.5435	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Brazil cruzeiro 20.5795-20.7973	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Canada 0.7350-0.7450	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Cyprus pound 20.50-20.55	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Denmark 11.1610-11.1703	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
East Germany 1.85-1.86	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
France 6.4800-6.4900	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
West Germany 3.7150-3.7210	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
India rupee 0.4200-0.4240	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Indonesia 1.225-1.235	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Japan 2.7044-2.7173	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
South Africa rand 3.2015-3.2115	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
Singapore dollar 3.1295-3.1435	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
South Africa rand 3.1295-3.1435	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680
U.S. dollar 1.5270-1.5290	Malaysia 2.1628-2.1680

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank MOPX and ERM.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Dec 86	88.72	88.72	88.70	88.71	273
Mar 87	88.90	88.90	88.85	88.88	1864
Jun 87	89.24	89.24	89.20	89.22	70
Sep 87	89.30	89.30	89.25	89.24	23
Dec 87	89.18	89.18	89.16	89.14	2
Mar 88	89.18	89.18	89.16	89.14	2
Previous day's total open interest 15782					
Three Month Eurodollar					
Dec 86	93.76	93.76	93.75	93.75	409
Mar 87	93.91	93.91	93.88	93.90	2591
Jun 87	94.31	94.31	94.30	94.32	378
Sep 87	94.35	94.35	94.34	94.32	203
Previous day's total open interest 4396					
US Treasury Bond					
Dec 86	98.07	98.11	98.02	98.02	91
Mar 87	98.05	98.09	97.97	97.91	3010
Jun 87	98.05	98.07	97.97	97.92	0
Previous day's total open interest 213					
Short Gilt					
Dec 86	NT	NT	NT	98.27	0
Mar 87	NT	NT	NT	98.27	0
Jun 87	NT	NT	NT	98.27	0
Previous day's total open interest 22148					
Long Gilt					
Dec 86	109.16	109.20	109.13	109.12	21
Mar 87	110.15	110.15	110.13	110.14	18591
Jun 87	110.08	110.08	110.06	110.14	0
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Previous day's total open interest 3523					
FT-SE 100					
Dec 86	163.00	164.75	163.00	163.00	437
Mar 87	165.40	166.75	166.00	166.20	25

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

COMMODITIES

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
<p>Aspic is presently the most exciting market in London. The prospect of a settlement at the Opex conference in Geneva has led to a rally in prices. Opex is clearly the key to future movement: bulls, however, have turned bullish.</p>				
<p>INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE Supplied by Commodity Market Services Ltd SAVY FUEL OIL</p>				
Jan	82.0-82.75			
Mar	82.5-83.50			
May	82.5-83.50			
Jul	82.0-83.50			
Oct	81.5-83.50			
Dec	81.5-83.50			
Jan	81.5-83.50			
Mar	81.5-83.50			
May	81.5-83.50			
Jul	81.5-83.50			
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Dec	81.5-83.50			
Jan	81.5-83.50			
Mar	81.5-83.50			

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Category	Company	Gain or Loss
1	Staveley	Industrials S-Z	
2	Cowie (T)	Motors/Aircraft	
3	Whitbread 'A'	Breweries	
4	Honda Motor	Motors/Aircraft	
5	Redfern Glass	Industrials L-R	
6	Brown Owen Kent	Electricals	
7	Hill Samuel	Newspapers/Pub	
8	Highland Eloc	Bank/Discount	
9	Amalgamated	Electricals	
10	Lyle (S)	Industrials A-D	
11	Prop & Rev	Textiles	
12	Forward Tech	Electricals	
13	Humber	Bank/Discount	
14	Unigate	Food	
15	Hickson	Chemicals/Plas	
16	Bartherm	Electricals	
17	Holt Lloyd	Chemicals/Plas	
18	Burns	Drugs/Stores	
19	Heywood Williams	Building/Roads	
20	Caparo Ind	Industrials A-D	
21	No-Self Inds	Industrials L-R	
22	Schroder	Bank/Discount	
23	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrials E-K	
24	Radford Metal	Industrials L-R	
25	Rankings	Property	
26	Lancet	Textiles	
27	Bristol	Textiles	
28	Calys	Newspapers/Pub	
29	Chas Virella	Motors/Aircraft	
30	Gr Western Res	Oil	
31	Egerton Trust	Property	
32	Ransome Sims	Industrials L-R	
33	ML H dgs	Industrials L-R	
34	Trifone Europe	Oil	
35	Aus Oil & Gas	Oil	
36	Shiloh	Industrials S-Z	
37	Nat Asset Rtr	Bank/Discount	
38	Benchmark	Bank/Discount	
39	Triford Park	Property	
40	Wellcome	Industrials S-Z	
41	Mercury Int	Bank/Discount	
42	Br Land	Property	
43	Comstock	Property	
44	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £24,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOT

BRITISH FUNDS

1986	High	Low	Start	Price	Change	%	Div
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1986	High	Low	Start	Price	Change	%	Div
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Sand and gravel in greater demand

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Aggregates such as sand and gravel are in greater demand because of an increase in construction work in the industrialized countries.

Production of aggregates rose nearly 3 per cent last year and 19 per cent between 1981 and the end of last year.

But compared with most other countries, Britain's construction industry is less busy, with a weaker demand for materials, according to the British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries.

Annual statistical report confirms a steady growth trend in aggregates production since a five-year decline bottomed out at the end of 1980.

The main uses of aggregates are in road construction and maintenance (28 per cent), private sector industrial and commercial building (22 per cent) and in private sector housing (20 per cent).

Output for the public sector was worth £4.4 billion last year, which was about a fifth down in real terms, taking account of inflation, compared with five years before.

But in the same period private sector demand rose by more than a quarter in value in real terms to £10.2 billion, accounting for almost 70 per cent of all construction investment.

Output of processed aggregates has also risen, with bituminous coated materials, mainly used in road construction, up nearly 18 per cent in the five-year period.

Ready-mixed concrete production was up 9 per cent in the five years.

The BACMI Statistical Year Book 1986: £10 from BACMI, 156 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR.

Japanese act as go-betweens to repair US relations with Bonn

US close to exchange rate pact with Bonn

From Bailey Morris
Washington

The United States and West Germany are nearing agreement on an important monetary accord to stabilize exchange rates, but details will not be unveiled until after the West German elections next month, officials said yesterday.

The US is also engaged in bilateral discussions with Asian trading nations, notably South Korea and Taiwan, aimed at pressurizing these countries to devalue their currencies against the dollar.

Reagan Administration officials are trying to establish a strong trade policy, probably including new legislation to spur US competitiveness. They are anxious to show further progress in reducing the dollar against other currencies to avert a groundswell of protectionism in the new Congress.

Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, hopes to complete details of the agreement to stabilize the dollar-mark rate at a meeting on



Final meeting: James Baker (left) and Gerhard Stoltenberg

Saturday with Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German finance minister.

Officials said the US-West German agreement would be similar to the bilateral accord between the Reagan Administration and Japan to stabilize the yen-dollar rate and improve Japan's growth rate.

The decision to hold new talks with West Germany was partly due to Japan's insistence that the US repair

among the three nations is essential to global growth.

This was the reason Japanese officials acted as "go-betweens" before the meeting between Mr Baker and Herr Stoltenberg, officials said.

The Japanese apparently "sounded out" the West Germans and received a positive response.

Mr Baker and Mr David Mulford, the assistant Treasury Secretary, held discussions last week with Mr Toyoo Gyohten, Japan's vice-finance minister, and Mr Tomomitsu Oba, special advisor to Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese prime minister.

For two days, they discussed the yen-dollar relationship and the mark in what was regarded as a prelude to a system of target zones for these currencies.

Without an agreement with West Germany, Japanese officials fear the US will move early next year to lower the dollar against the mark again, thereby pushing the yen sharply higher against the dollar.

Japanese threat to Wah Kwong plan

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The US\$850 million (\$594.5 million) restructuring of the troubled Wah Kwong Shipping Group has been thrown into jeopardy by two Japanese creditors.

The other 46 creditors of the group, including Standard Chartered Bank of Tokyo, signed the restructuring agreement a month ago, well in advance of the December 31 deadline.

But Toyo Menka and Ka-

wasaki Heavy Industries, the contractor and builder of two ships delivered in 1983 and 1984, have refused to sign unless they are guaranteed payment by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

If the ministry does not support the two creditors, the restructuring is certain to collapse in the New Year, in which case it will have to pay hundreds of millions of dollars

to these Japanese creditors who have taken out export insurance. At least half the group's debts are to Japanese companies.

Agreements have been reached already between individual creditors and government bodies.

Wah Kwong shares have been suspended while its financial advisers - the American Express subsidiary, Amex-Asia - put together the

survival plan.

They hope to set up a new holding company with shares being issued to creditors and to shareholders of the original listed firm, Wah Kwong Shipping and Investment Company.

Most of the banks which had secured debts - mortgages against Wah Kwong ships - have agreed to let them join a core fleet for the new company.

Company's right to choose timing of allowances claim

Ellis (Inspector of Taxes) v BP Oil Northern Ireland Refinery Ltd
Ellis (Inspector of Taxes) v BP Tyne Tanker Co Ltd
Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Bingham
(Judgment December 12)

For corporation tax purposes capital allowances to which a company was entitled were not to be credited to its accounts until the end of the financial year 1965, the Capital Allowances Act 1968 and the Finance Act 1971 did not take away from a company the right to choose whether or not to claim for such allowances or to carry them forward to subsequent accounting periods.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments so held in dismissing an appeal by the Crown from Mr Justice Walton (The Times August 9, 1986; 1985 STC 723) who upheld the determination of a special commissioner in favour of the taxpayer companies, BP Oil Northern Ireland Refinery Ltd and BP Tyne Tanker Co Ltd.

The Crown was refused leave to appeal from Mr Justice Walton's decision. The Crown was represented by Charles Porter, QC and Mr Alan Moses for the Crown; Mr Graham Aarons, QC and Mr Terence Mowchenson for the taxpayer companies.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said that the appeals raised an unusual point of statutory construction: whether capital allowances to which a company was entitled fell to be credited to it automatically, whether it wanted them or not, or whether only those allowances which were specifically claimed by the company fell to be taken into account.

The paradox was that Crown was arguing for the former result and the taxpayer companies for the latter. The reasons motivating the taxpayer companies to

make that course were that by not claiming allowances in less profitable years, they could claim annual allowances in later, more profitable years based on higher figures of the written-down values of the machinery, plant or building in question.

The court had been told that tax of £60 million depended on the result of the case.

The modern system of capital allowances was introduced by the Income Tax Act 1943 as a relief from income tax. They were to encourage reconstruction after the end of World War II. It was agreed that from 1945 to 1965 a taxpayer, whether an individual or a company, had the right to choose whether or not to take the allowance to which he was entitled. That right of choice remained to this day for income tax purposes.

The Finance Act 1965 introduced corporation tax. Despite differences, the general structure of the new tax was for the income element of a company's profits to be computed on income tax principles.

Capital allowances for corporation tax purposes were dealt with in section 56. By section 56(2) the allowances for any accounting period in a tax year "shall be given effect by treating the amount of any allowance as a trading expense of the trade in that period, and by treating the amount on which any such charge is to be made as a trading receipt of the trade in that period."

The Crown's case was that that provision made a capital allowance a trading expense of the trade for the accounting period in question. Trading expenses were automatically deductible in computing trading profits.

Thus the effect of making a capital allowance a trading expense was to obviate the necessity for a claim and to make it automatically - that is, compulsorily - deductible. That

submission had the attraction of simplicity but was wrong.

The provisions of the 1965 Act did not make such allowances compulsorily deductible. They continued to be referred to as "allowances". An allowance, being a thing allowed, carried the connotation that what was allowed should first be claimed.

Further, neither section 56(2) nor the successor, section 73(2) of the Capital Allowances Act 1968, said that the allowances should be deducted as trading expenses: all that the subsection did was to provide that they "shall be given effect by treating the amount of any allowance as a trading expense."

That language was consistent with Mr Aarons's contention that the allowances still required to be claimed but that, when claimed, they "shall" be given effect by treating them in a particular manner.

It remained only to mention the provisions of Part III of the Finance Act 1971 that made changes to the law on capital allowances for plant and machinery.

In respect of those allowances to which it applied it introduced two new procedural factors: (1) two new companies were given a right of disclaimer for first-year allowances and (2) individuals were given a right to restrict their claim for writing-down allowances to a portion of their entitlement.

In other respects the 1971 Act adopted the existing procedures in relation to those allowances to which it applied and the provisions by which those procedures were adapted to the new regime made it clear that the right of choice remained an integral part of the system of capital allowances. Therefore the provisions of the 1971 Act did not affect the position.

Lord Justice Bingham delivered a concurring judgment and the Vice-Chancellor agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Linklaters & Paines.

Registered Isle of Man bank is not a bona fide UK banker

Hafton Properties Ltd v McHugh (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Peter Gibson
(Judgment November 28)

An Isle of Man bank having its registered office in Douglas that made a number of loans to United Kingdom residents was not carrying on a "bona fide banking business in the United Kingdom". Accordingly a borrower when repaying interest to the bank had to deduct and account for a sum equal to income tax in respect of those payments under the provisions of section 54 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

Mr Justice Peter Gibson so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by Hafton Properties Ltd from a determination of a single special commissioner upholding several assessments to income tax made on it in respect of interest payments to an Isle of Man company, Savings and Investment Bank Ltd (SIB).

Mr R. K. Mathew for Hafton Properties Ltd; Mr Alan Moses for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that Hafton's appeal was against assessments to tax on interest payments made by it without deducting tax.

The Crown contended that tax should have been deducted under Section 54 of the 1970 Act. Thereby when interest chargeable to tax under Case III of Schedule D was paid by a borrower, a sum representing income tax was to be deducted unless the interest was on "an advance from a bank carrying on a bona fide banking business in the United Kingdom".

Hafton was a property dealing

company resident in the United Kingdom. In 1980, it required a loan for property refinancing. Through a firm of London solicitors, Hafton contacted SIB and negotiated a loan of £350,000. Security was on a United Kingdom property and interest was at 4 per cent above SIB's base rate payable by Hafton to the London solicitors. SIB went into liquidation in 1982.

Prior to liquidation SIB had conducted a banking business in the Isle of Man: it had no banking premises or registered office in the United Kingdom.

It had made loan transactions here from 1978 to 1981 - the same London solicitors acting for one of the parties in every transaction. The evidence was that SIB had had one or two United Kingdom depositors.

Two advertisements by SIB, soliciting deposits from United Kingdom residents were produced - inquiries to be directed to the Isle of Man and emphasis being placed on the confidentiality that SIB could accord its customers.

The commissioners had considered two questions, namely (1) whether SIB was carrying on a business in the United Kingdom, and (2) if it was so doing, whether it was "a bona fide banking business".

On the first question the commissioner, while accepting that a foreign company could carry on business in the UK without premises here, was doubtful as to whether SIB had really carried on any business in the UK as distinct from in the Isle of Man.

On the evidence the commissioner was bound to conclude as

he did. Given SIB's absence of UK premises and given the absence of any representative here and in the light of the advertisements, the only conclusion was that all SIB did was to attract borrowers from the UK to the Isle of Man. It was not carrying on business in the UK.

The commissioner had gone on to determine the second question should he be found to have been wrong in determining the first. He had guided himself by reference to the Court of Appeal's decision in *United Dominions Trust Ltd v Kirkwood* ([1966] 2 QB 431) and in particular to a passage from Lord Justice Diplock at pp465-66. He had concluded that as lending was not one of the tests to establish "banking" it followed that a banking business was not carried on in the UK by SIB - it not being reputed as a specialist bank.

The commissioner had come to a correct determination. To see whether the business that was carried on in the UK could properly be described as a bona fide banking business it had to have the characteristics of a banking business.

Those characteristics had at least to include the taking of deposits as well as the other matters to which reference was made in the *United Dominions Trust* case. Lending in itself was not enough. Here what was done by SIB in the UK, so far as was known, was simply the lending of money. It followed that despite a valiant argument by Mr Mathew, SIB's appeal had to be dismissed.

Solicitors: Asher Fishman & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Injunction on use of right of way

Resting and Others v Pinnegar v Sewell and Another
Pinnegar v Norman and Another
Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Woolf and Sir Rouseley Cumming-Bruce
(Judgment November 28)

It was proper for the court to grant an injunction regulating in detail the use of a right of way if it was satisfied that the limitations thereby imposed would prevent an unreasonable and excessive user of the way and any consequent nuisance.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing in part appeals by Mr David John Pinnegar, the owner of Hammerwood House and of a right of way over the lane leading to it, and cross-appeals by the owners of property adjoining the lane who also had rights of way over it, from orders of East Grinstead County Court (Judge Wingate, QC) which had granted the cross-appellants injunctions, *inter alia*, restricting the extent to which the appellant could invite the public to use the lane for the purpose of visiting the house.

Mr Robert Reid, QC and Mr Steven Whitaker for the appellant; Mr Michael Gordon-Stanford, QC and Mr Graham Pinnegar for the cross-appellants.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the appellant's right of way was expressed in the grant which created it as "for all purposes" but "in common with all the owners of land adjoining the lane".

In the light of the terms of the grant and of *White v Grand Hotel Eastbourne Ltd* ([1913] 1 Ch 113), *Todd v Western National Omnibus Co Ltd* ([1913] 1 Ch 170), *Stenquill Investments Ltd v Ricklin* (unreported), February 23, 1966, CA) and *Jelbert v Davis* ([1968] 1 WLR 589) it was clear that the mere fact that the house was now open to the public for part of the year, attracting traffic along the lane, whereas not very

long ago the house had been derelict and generated practically no traffic, was no breach by the appellant of the terms of the grant, and therefore the cross-appellants were not entitled to the injunction which they had sought restraining the appellant from opening the house to the public altogether.

Moreover, the cross-appellants were not in general entitled to complain that when the house was open to the public they could no longer enjoy the rural peace and quiet which had caused them to come and live there.

His Lordship had no doubt that the judge had directed himself entirely correctly in accordance with authority in considering the extent of the user generated by the appellant's invitation to the public to visit the house.

The judge had concluded that that had caused a serious interference with the cross-appellants' right and that that excessive user had in some respects been a nuisance in law to at least some of the cross-appellants. There had been sufficient evidence before the judge to justify that finding, and the appeal therefore failed in that respect.

The appellant had submitted that the injunctions had been made without jurisdiction, in the light of a dictum of Lord

Justice Oliver in *Cutts v Head* ([1984] Ch 290, 297). He had contended that the proper way of dealing with disputes of that kind was not to grant an injunction but to make a declaration coupled with liberty to apply for an injunction if necessary.

That was the route which the Court of Appeal had adopted in *Jelbert*. However, in *Kennaway v Thompson* ([1981] QB 88) it had granted an injunction regulating in detail the frequency and periods of use of a lake for speedboat racing, in much the same way as the judge had done in this case.

His Lordship could see no reason why an order in that form should not be made in a plaintiff was entitled to an injunction to prevent an unreasonable and excessive user of a way and any consequent nuisance. Not to grant such an injunction might be denying justice to one side or the other and inviting further litigation within a short space of time.

The judge's orders would be varied so that, *inter alia*, they provided generally for the future, but in general would be upheld.

Lord Justice Woolf and Sir Rouseley Cumming-Bruce agreed.

Solicitors: John Pinnegar & Co, Oxford; Rosling King.

Amending planning enforcement notice

Masefield and Another v Taylor

Where an inspector, appointed by the secretary of state to determine an appeal under section 88 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, against an enforcement notice, in determining the appeal amended the notice in terms communicated to the appellant, there was no need for the local authority to re-serve the enforcement notice in the amended terms.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann) so held on December 5 in dismissing an appeal by John Masefield and Blanda Masefield by way of case stated against Justice for an offence of non-compliance with an enforcement notice contrary to section 89 of the 1971 Act, served by the respondent, Michael Benjamin Taylor, on behalf of the West Dorset District Council.

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Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

A two-night A to Z of apartheid

As an analysis of the one racial conflict that has world-wide repercussions, Granada Television's *Apartheid* (ITV, 9.00pm and 10.30pm, and tomorrow night at the same time) is without precedent. It is, perhaps, of only academic interest that never before has a documentary straddled the News at Ten on two successive nights. The important thing is that for the first time, the curve of the South Africa crisis is being plotted chronologically, and the injustices, the repression and the pleas of justification and the substitution of violence for negotiation, are set out without ambiguity and with all the remorselessness and inevitability of a Greek tragedy. Tonight's two segments span the years between the slaughter of Zulus in the Battle of Blood River to the outlawing of the African National Congress and the in-

CHOICE

roduction of detention without trial that was euphemistically called social isolation. The intervening milestones — the Boer War, the growth of the Afrikaner and African nationalist movements, Smuts, Verwoerd, Malan, segregation, Sharpeville — receive much more than the customary cursory glance. Tomorrow night, the focus shifts to the homelands, the splits that developed in the National Party after P W Botha's promises of reforms, and the generating of parent power.

On paper, *Celebration of a Broadcaster* (BBC2, 7.15pm) sounds most impressive — in all respects on occasion worthy of the radio and television journalist it honours, Richard Dimbleby. It remains to be seen whether the

feast of music and the spoken word that will be broadcast live from Westminster Abbey succeeds in capturing the essence of the man whose own commentaries never failed to get the full measure of ceremonial occasions such as tonight's.

Also worth your attention to-night: the Hancock Half Hour episode that had the comedian contemplating plastic surgery on his nose (BBC1, 8.00pm), and episode two of Peter Buckner's adaptation of *Verd's Shackville* West's All Passion Spent (BBC2, 9.00pm) in which Harry Andrews' FitzGeorge, a shadowy figure in episode one, is filled out considerably.

Radio offers a couple of more than passably interesting documentaries tonight that put music-making against unusual backgrounds. *Opera on the Road*

(Radio 4, 8.30pm) is Antony Hopkins's report on Pavilion Opera who take Verdi, Mozart and Donizetti to stately homes and perform on a 12ft by 18ft carpet. No orchestra, just a piano — and a chorus only when it is absolutely impossible to do without one. I have heard far worse singing at Covent Garden than from some of the principals we hear exercising their tonals in Anne Hinds's charming feature... The Band (Radio 2, 9.00pm) completes Angela Ripston's engaging survey of the most versatile military musicians, the Band of the Royal Marines. Their duties on board the Royal Yacht Britannia, climbing in the Queen's visit to China, provide tonight's business. The quality of the sound recording is quite exceptional.

Peter Davalle



Dr Mazon: "Apartheid" was his slogan: Apartheid, on ITV, 9.00pm

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 5.55pm-6.00 Wales Today, 6.35-7.00 Computer Challenge, 8.30-10.00 Week in Week Out, 10.10-11.30 Film: *Highland Fling* (1986), 12.05am-12.35am Film: *12.35-12.40 News and weather*, 12.45-1.15am *Scotland 10.15am-11.00am* *Scotland 11.05-11.55* *Scotland 12.05-12.45* *Scotland 12.50-1.00* *Scotland 1.05-1.15* *Scotland 1.20-1.30* *Scotland 1.35-1.45* *Scotland 1.50-2.00* *Scotland 2.05-2.15* *Scotland 2.20-2.30* *Scotland 2.35-2.45* *Scotland 2.50-3.00* *Scotland 3.05-3.15* *Scotland 3.20-3.30* *Scotland 3.35-3.45* *Scotland 3.50-4.00* *Scotland 4.05-4.15* *Scotland 4.20-4.30* *Scotland 4.35-4.45* *Scotland 4.50-5.00* *Scotland 5.05-5.15* *Scotland 5.20-5.30* *Scotland 5.35-5.45* *Scotland 5.50-6.00* *Scotland 6.05-6.15* *Scotland 6.20-6.30* *Scotland 6.35-6.45* *Scotland 6.50-7.00* *Scotland 7.05-7.15* *Scotland 7.20-7.30* *Scotland 7.35-7.45* *Scotland 7.50-8.00* *Scotland 8.05-8.15* *Scotland 8.20-8.30* *Scotland 8.35-8.45* *Scotland 8.50-9.00* *Scotland 9.05-9.15* 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The Sports Council has also allocated £250,000 to support sports medicine and sports science in Britain. Mr Smith said: "This is also the first attempt at co-ordinating all the bodies in sports medicine and may eventually reduce the number of them."

He began by smashing the first ball of the first over, a long top from Reid, through the

Adelaide, 40 years ago, was the scene of Godfrey Evans's

But Marsh has learnt a lot of the answers; Border was very solid, and there were only 20 minutes left when Marsh, playing too soon, gave Edmonds a simple return catch. The storm had come to nothing and play ended in the warmest sunshine of the day.

BOWLING: Hughes 30-8-82-1; Reid 25 4-8-54-4; Shoop 47-14-132-6; Matthews 23-1-102-0; Border 1-0-1-0; Wough 19-4-55-1.
Umpires: A R Crafter and S G Rendell.

Jersey Open, brought forward to April 9 to 12 to make further room for expansion, is likely to be worth £100,000.

Souness is make more

poised to signings

The Matchroom team will be working during the period of the Belgian Classic tour the Middle East, visiting Muscat and

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10/10/1944

All change

Peterborough United are expected to confirm the appointment of Mick Jones as the Halifax-Town manager, as their team manager today.



Pearce: blocked

No contest

David Pearce, the former British heavyweight champion, who has been out of the ring for nearly three years since a brain scan revealed a congenital abnormality, has

motocycle championship, has been named top rider in the British-based Rothmans Honda team for the 1987 competition. The Australian winner of three Grand Prix last season will be supported by Shunji Yatsushiro, of Japan, and Britain's Roger Burnett.

Le Roux dates

Garth le Roux, the South African fast bowler who has been with Sussex for eight years, is to have two testimonial lunches arranged for him by club's supporters

Safety first

lessionals, respectively from Berkshire and Hertfordshire. They have engineered places for themselves among the nation's top ten singles players through hard work and application. They are given many few privileges on offer in the commercial club environment which has spawned these two young racket men and it is doubtful if either has even seen a genuine doubles court.

Their opponents, Jon Cornish and Darren Mabbs, are old hands at the doubles game. It may be no coincidence that this sophisticated partnership had its roots in the West Country, far from Avon. There is rumoured to be a private doubles court hidden somewhere in the West country. The only officially listed British doubles court

The daily...
 page of \$4.00...
 was yesterday...
 Phillips of S...
 London, Det...
 26: how to play...
 information service...
 page 22

All change

Peterborough United are expected to confirm the appointment of Mick Jones as the Halifax-Town manager, as their team manager today.

had been banned by Tordfen Borough Council. He was due to meet Lorenzo Boyd, of the United States, at the Pontywood Leisure Centre on Friday. Pearce's camp say the contest will now take place at the Parc Club in Tredregr.

Middlesbrough, the third division leaders, expect to have their 3,000-seat east stand opened for the FA Cup third round tie against Preston on January 10. Contractors are working to bring the stand up to safety standards.

Lisa Opie's first experience of the dobbies game was in last year's British Championship when she and Miss Geaves lost in the final. Her opponents are the Wright sisters, Debbie and Sue.

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